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VOLUME LXV, NUMBER 19682

FRIDAY, JULY 24, 1997 • TAMUZ 19, 5757 • 19 RABIA AWWAL 1418

NIS 4.50 (Eilat NIS 3.80)

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# Knesset passes early reading of bill to shore up Golan Law

By LIAT COLLINS

Opposition MKs boycotted the Knesset plenum yesterday afternoon, protesting what they claim was a parliamentary trick after one of two private member's bills on the Golan Heights passed preliminary reading. Speaker Dan Tichon said he would take 24 hours to reexamine

film footage of the vote to see whether there were any procedural irregularities. The opposition claimed that Tichon did not give them enough time between the first vote on a bill by Yehuda Harel (The Third Way) - which failed in a tie at 50 to 50, with four abstentions - and the second vote on a bill by Tsomet whip Eliezer Zandberg, which passed 43 to 40 with two absent-

ions. Opposition MKs also complained that Justice Minister Tzafni Hanegbi misled them by stating in the plenum that the government opposed the bills. Ministers, including the prime minister, then voted in favor. The bill by Zandberg says that only a majority of 80 MKs can authorize a change to the 1981

Golan Heights Law. The bill by Harel, which failed, said any territorial concessions would require the approval of a 61-MK majority in the Knesset and a 50 percent majority of all eligible voters in a public referendum. Speaking to reporters, Tichon said he had stated at the start that the two votes would be held consecutively. He also announced at least three

times after the first vote that he was beginning the second vote. Part of the problem stemmed from the general atmosphere. There was a great deal of heckling, and the roll-call vote was one of the longest in Knesset history, lasting nearly 30 minutes because of the disturbances. When Harel's bill failed, opposition MKs jumped up and started congratulating each other and sever-

al MKs from both sides left the plenum, even though Tichon was calling for the second vote. Labor Party chairman Ehud Barak later complained that the second vote took place before he and Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and others had managed to get back to their seats. Meretz whip Haim Oron accidentally pressed the wrong button, voting in favor of the bill. He later

demanding Tichon alter the vote to take this into account. Tichon told reporters that it is a well-known principle that the Speaker cannot change a vote once concluded. He also said a parliamentarian of Oron's experience should be capable of voting correctly. See Golan, Page 2

## State workers declare strike

### Action in solidarity with Bezeq

By DAVID HARRIS and JUDY SEGEL

Some 60,000 state employees are due to stage an open-ended strike today in solidarity with staff at Bezeq, who are fighting the sale of shares in the company to US investment house Merrill Lynch. The Histadrut only declared the strike late last night. It is thought this was an attempt to prevent employers from turning to the courts in a bid for restraining

order for 440 vital staffers that the Communications Ministry issued and Netanyahu signed yesterday. The union declared that this "drastic, totalitarian action" was unnecessary, as the workers had "already returned to work in the morning" and because a short time after the signing, the Tel Aviv District Labor Court refused Bezeq management's request for contempt-of-court orders.

Communications Minister Limor Livnat said that the workers "violated the restraining orders" of the previous day, thus there was no choice but to issue the more potent back-to-work orders. She added that if back-to-work orders, issued under Emergency Regulations, against 440 vital staffers were not enough, there was an option to order another 400 to work.

It should take three days to restore the country's telecommunications system to normal, union spokesman Zvi Vilnay said. The union will observe the back-to-work orders and the restraining orders, he continued, but it will continue the fight by other means against the sale of 12.5 percent of the company's stock to Merrill Lynch without consulting workers.

Two years ago the government signed an agreement to consult with workers throughout the privatization process and this agreement, according to Vilnay, had been violated.

Livnat said it might have been better for the government to consult with the union in advance about the Merrill Lynch sale, but that this was not justification for the wildcat strike.

Bezeq subscribers did not feel much improvement yesterday; in fact, many thought things had taken a turn for the worse, after some lines had been fixed on Tuesday afternoon.

### Hospital strike ends, Page 16

orders.

The strike, scheduled to begin at 7 this morning, involves workers at 10 state companies, including:

- The Civil Aviation Authority, which will disrupt airport traffic.
- Israel Aircraft Industries and Israel Military Industries.
- Israel Oil Refineries' Ltd.'s Haifa and Ashdod complexes.
- The Israel Electric Corporation and the Mekorot Water Company. Major disruptions are not expected.

- The Postal Authority.
- The Ports and Railways Authority, including Israel Railways.

Late last night, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Histadrut Chairman Amir Peretz were locked in talks in an attempt to resolve the crisis.

Those organizing the campaign are expected to hold a series of meetings today to decide on their next moves if that meeting did not achieve a solution.

Though the order infuriated them, Bezeq workers said they would observe the back-to-work

## Mordechai sits out budget vote

By DAVID HARRIS

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai refused to enter the Prime Minister's Office early on Wednesday as the cabinet voted to approve the additional NIS 800 million cut in the 1997 budget.

Twelve ministers supported the proposal, with four ministers - Zevulun Hammer (Education), Yitzhak Levy (Transport), Eli Yishai (Labor and Social Affairs) and Yehoshua Matza (Health) - voting against. Foreign Minister David Levy was abroad.

Mordechai arrived an hour late for the debate, which lasted four-and-a-half hours. On his arrival, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu took him into a separate room in a final bid to persuade him to support the planned NIS 205m. cut in defense spending. However, surrounded by senior ministry and IDF officials, Mordechai decided to wait outside while the cabinet discussed the cuts.

Two proposals were put forward

by Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman: one to cut NIS 600m. to remain within the government's budget deficit target of 2.8 percent of the gross domestic product, the second to transfer NIS 180m. in US aid to Jordan and a further NIS 20m. cut in spending to pay for the distribution of new gas masks.

During the debate, Netanyahu and Ne'eman agreed to certain changes which were acceptable to the majority. The original plan was to cut the NIS 600m. at an equal 0.9% from each ministry's budget, except for the Defense and Education ministries, where the cut would be at 0.6%. The NIS 200m. was to be raised by cutting 0.26% from all ministries.

The compromise, which allowed the successful passage of the proposals, was to attain the NIS 205m. cut in defense spending, by cutting 0.4% from the Education, Health, and Labor and Social Affairs ministries' budgets, 0.6% from the Defense Ministry and at 1.1% from the remaining ministries. The NIS 200m. cut was approved without change.

The cut now moves to the Knesset Finance Committee for final approval, with the cabinet scheduled to begin its 1998 budget deliberations on Sunday.



George Krayer, president of the Swiss Bankers Association, holds up a list released yesterday of names of dormant accounts opened by foreigners before 1945.

## Swiss banks name 1,800 dormant Holocaust accounts

By MARILYN HENRY

The Swiss banks yesterday made public a list of more than 1,800 names from so-called foreign dormant accounts, which proved to be an embarrassing expose of bank negligence.

The president of the Swiss Bankers Association, Georg Krayer, said in Zurich that he "was somewhat ashamed" when he saw the list of names on Tuesday night. The list revealed, at a glance, accounts belonging to several well known businessmen in Germany, demonstrating that the banks were not aggressive in tracking down customers.

"I have not found a fig leaf big enough to cover up the negligence of my colleagues in the banks since the war," Krayer told reporters in Zurich.

"Of course, they had remained mostly within the existing law. But the law teaches say that the law has to cover the ethical minimum. And there, more could have been done."

There are 1,872 names, associated with 1756 separate accounts, on the alphabetical list of all known dormant Swiss bank accounts that were opened

by non-Swiss before May 9, 1945. They range from R. Joh. Aalberts of London to Dr. Karl G. Zwick of Cincinnati. The accounts have a total current value of 61 million Swiss francs, which do not include the 17 million francs previously found by the Swiss banking ombudsman.

The list includes people who were not victims of the Holocaust, but who failed to provide information to their heirs about their Swiss assets, the SBA said. The banks have launched a 5-million-franc global campaign to publish the names on the Internet and in newspapers in 27 countries and 19 languages.

In the meantime, the forensic audit of the banks, under the auspices of the Volcker Committee, is continuing. It is expected to be concluded next year.

The list made public yesterday includes all types of dormant accounts, including interest-bearing savings accounts, securities accounts, safe deposit boxes, custody accounts, and non-interest bearing transaction accounts. The banks have been paying interest on dormant accounts that, by their nature, were interest-bearing, such as savings accounts. It does not include accounts that have been closed by the banks' customers or their authorized representatives.

Ten percent of the accounts comprise 90 percent of the total value: two-thirds of the accounts are worth 5,000 francs (\$3,500) or less.

One-third of the names indicate France as the country of origin. Observers noted that there were surprisingly few names from Eastern Europe.

Early in 1996, the banks said they had found some \$32 million

The Swiss Bankers Association will publish an advertisement listing the names from the accounts in tomorrow's Jerusalem Post. How to file a claim, Page 4

## Bridge report: Chain of negligence

By RAINE MARCUS

A chain of negligence, from faulty planning through incompetent building, was blamed yesterday on all parties involved in the collapse of the Maccabiah footbridge on July 14, in which two members of the Australian contingent were killed and 66 injured.

According to the findings presented yesterday by the Education Ministry's Dotan Committee, the sequence of foul-ups began with engineer Micha Bar-Ilan, who designed the bridge, and continued with the Irgunit construction firm and its subcontractor, Ben-Ezra Construction, and the Maccabiah organizing committee. The Dotan Committee passed on its findings to the Dan sub-district police, whose investigation continues.

### Maccabi Australia demands compensation, Page 3

Faulty planning, negligence, incompetence, inferior materials, lack of coordination between construction companies and organizing bodies, and lack of technical experience are just some of the factors mentioned in the damning report. It was completed in just eight days, so that results could be presented before the end of the Maccabiah today.

In a packed press conference at Tel Aviv's Beit Sokolov, Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled explained the bridge collapse as symbolizing a deteriorating Israeli society, in which "amateurism and the notions of 'it'll be okay,' 'don't worry - trust me' are contributing to unnecessary deaths; [this attitude] is also expressed in traffic accidents."

"Lives are lost because of total lack of respect, disdain, and indifference," said Peled. "Our society must be changed by education. We tend to say, 'We'll cross that bridge when we come to it.' This time we failed, and didn't even reach the bridge."

The commission's experts - professors at the Technion and members of the Engineering and Architecture Associations - summarized the technical findings:

- Faulty planning and failure to comply with Standards Institution criteria.
- Inexperienced builders, who had

- no authorization to build bridges.
- Sub-standard materials.
- Faulty coordination between builders and planners.
- Total lack of supervision and control.
- Implementation of the work without essential plans and instructions.
- The use of ready-made materials which were in need of maintenance and inappropriate for the bridge.

None of the parties involved in the bridge's construction saw himself responsible and each passed the buck to the other, the committee emphasized. It also stressed that a General Security Service ATV seen crossing the bridge did not weaken it, since it was in any case not fit for use.

Irgunit and Ben-Ezra were totally inexperienced in the type of work necessary, said Peled, and the bridge did not meet the Standards Institution specification of 250 kilograms-per-square-meter.

Peled and Dotan also said that the company commissioning the bridge should have had a supervision and control system to ensure it was fit for use. At present, there is no law specifying safety regulations for such temporary constructions at events, said Peled.

"I am now working, together with Education Minister Zevulun Hammer and Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani, to introduce a law which requires safety regulations, just as security regulations and approvals are essentials at such events," said Peled.

The lack of supervision by the Maccabiah organizing committee stemmed from lack of the technical knowledge required, Peled said. The bridge construction also lacked the necessary permits, he added.

In response, the attorney representing engineer Bar-Ilan accused the committee of being amateur. "The fact that the findings were released in such a short time proves that the committee is not serious," said lawyer Abraham Landstein. "The commission did not relate to the real cause of the bridge's collapse. It refused to name guilty parties and completely overlooked any responsibility by the police - whose licensing division had to give authorization - and the roles of both the Ramat Gan and Tel Aviv municipalities." He also pointed an accusing finger at the police investigation.

### WORLDVIEW

## State Department wants new asylum rules for persecuted Christians

By NORMAN KEMPSTER

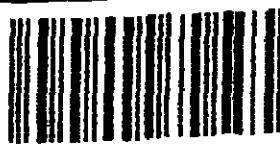
WASHINGTON (LA Times) - In releasing a new report detailing persecution of Christians around the world, the State Department called this week on immigration authorities to revise their procedures to guarantee asylum in the United States to people facing religious tyranny.

John Shanuck, assistant secretary of state for human rights, said that as part of this effort, his office is providing the Immigration and

Naturalization Service with updated reports on conditions in more than 50 countries to make sure that claims of religious persecution are evaluated fairly.

Christian groups have accused the INS of imposing impossible tests, such as demands to explain complex theological concepts, on refugees seeking asylum on the grounds they are persecuted for Christian beliefs.

See CHRISTIANS, Page 5



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## NEWS

in brief

## 18 injured in Arava collision

Eighteen people were injured, two of them seriously, when a minibus rear-ended an Egged bus on the Arava road, near Kibbutz Yafeh.

The minibus was carrying soldiers home from a vacation in Eilat. Sixteen soldiers suffered light to moderate injuries. The driver of the minibus and a woman passenger were seriously hurt.

An army helicopter took the seriously injured to Soroka Hospital in Beersheba. The soldiers were taken to Josephthal Hospital in Eilat. *Tim*

## IDF officer injured in Hebron

In Hebron last night, an IDF officer was injured in the head by stones thrown at him near the Yacubiah School, the IDF Spokesman said.

The officer was treated at the site. Meanwhile the IDF Spokesman denied Hebron settlers' claims that shots were fired towards Beit Hadassah at 10 p.m. last night. According to Hebron Jewish Community spokesman Noam Arnon, none of the bullets penetrated inside the building and no one was injured.

Arnon said the shots were fired from the Shallah Street in the H2-area, under Palestinian control. *Margot Dudkevitch*

## Border policemen attacked in territories

A firebomb was thrown at a Border Police jeep in the Halhoul area, the IDF spokesman said last night.

No one was injured in the attack and troops were combing the area. In addition, a border policeman was lightly wounded near the settlement of Ariel after a group of Palestinians stoned his patrol. *Margot Dudkevitch*

## Shas leaders meet with Abu Mazen

Shas Party leaders, including party chairman MK Aryeh Deri, met last night in a Jerusalem hotel with Palestinian Authority Deputy Chairman Abu Mazen and Gaza security chief Mohammed Dahlan. Deri said afterwards that the two-hour meeting was devoted to discussing various topics related to furthering the peace process and was held with the agreement of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. *Tim*

## Group to change election law being announced

An association headed by former foreign and defense minister Moshe Arens established to change the law on direct elections for the prime minister will formally announce its establishment at a news conference at Beit Sokolov in Tel Aviv today. The association crosses party lines, and its membership includes former prime ministers Shimon Peres (Labor) and Yitzhak Shamir (Likud), and MKs Uzi Landau (Likud), Yossi Beilin (Labor), and Naomi Chazan (Meretz). *Tim*

## Law Committee meets on election law

The Knesset Law Committee met yesterday to hear the opinion of Attorney-General Elyakim Rubinstein on the question of the required Knesset majority for a vote on dismissing the prime minister. Rubinstein reviewed the implications of changing Clause 19 of the basic law on the direct election of the prime minister, which deals with dissolving the Knesset in the event that the premier is forced to resign. *Batsheva Tsur*

## Palestinian Airlines takes to the skies

Palestinian Airlines spread its wings on yesterday, flying an inaugural scheduled commercial international flight from El-Arish Airport in Egypt to Amman. After a three-hour delay blamed on Israeli security measures, the small twin-propeller Fokker plane landed at Amman's Queen Alia Airport to a festive welcome and offerings of celebratory cake. Officials said they hoped the airlines would soon be flying from its home soil in the Gaza Strip rather than its temporary base in Egypt. The airline plans to make trips between Jordan and El-Arish on Sundays and Wednesdays. *Reuters*

## Suha Arafat meets with evicted church leaders

Members of the New York-based Russian Orthodox Church Outside of Russia yesterday met with Suha Arafat, wife of Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat, who promised to intervene with her husband, but could not promise the return of the Hebron monastery from which Palestinian Police evicted the church members over two weeks ago.

Archbishop Mark of Munich, who heads a church delegation dealing with the issue, said yesterday that the PA's problem is that it does not want another police action to remove the clergy of the Moscow-based Russian Orthodox Patriarchate, which the PA installed after ousting the expatriate church. In that action, the Palestinian Police was widely criticized for using violence against monks and nuns. *Haim Shapiro*

## Eskin founds new right-wing group

Avigdor Eskin and other right-wing extremists yesterday founded a new organization, called Mahane Yisrael ("Israel Camp"), whose aim is to "destroy myths and restore honesty in Israeli society."

Among the myths he plans to attack is that of "Rabin, the holy one." Eskin said, adding that the nation should remember prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's role in the Ayalon affair.

Eskin also called for a retrial of Rabin's murderer Yigal Amir, saying it is not clear that Amir was the one who fired the bullet that killed Rabin. Eskin also indicated his interest in entering politics. "There is a consensus that my wife is much more suitable for the position of the prime minister's wife than is Sara Netanyahu," he said. *Tim*

## IDF helps Jordan extinguish fire

Israeli firefighters came to the aid of Jordan yesterday and helped put out a bushfire raging near the Naharayim enclave. Jordanian officers initiated the move, asking the IDF to help stem the flames. It was not clear if the fire threatened to cross into Israel. OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan agreed and gave the approval for two fire trucks to pass into Jordanian territory along with the civilian firefighters' commander and two IDF officers, one a representative from the Central Command and the other from the IDF's liaison unit. The fire was extinguished by the afternoon and the Israeli teams returned home, the army said. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

With great sorrow we announce the passing of our dear mother, grandmother and great-grandmother

## BAT SHEVA (Stefa) SZTRIGLER

The funeral took place yesterday  
Wednesday July 23, 1997, Tamuz 18, 5757.

Shiva: Arzei Habira 49/16 Jerusalem.

The unweaving will take place on  
Tuesday July 29, 1997, Tamuz 24, 5757  
at 5 p.m. on Mount of Olives Cemetery.

Meeting point at the Intercontinental Hotel.



Two British boys on crutches, members of the group of teenagers rammed by a car in a terror attack in Jaffa on Tuesday night, prepare yesterday to resume their tour of the country. (Reuters)

## Jaffa attacker was on good terms with Jews

By DAVID RUDGE

The family of the Israeli Arab who attacked a group of British and Canadian visitors in Jaffa on Tuesday, injuring 10 of them, maintained yesterday that his motive could not have been nationalist.

The suspect, Bakr Abu-Radiya of Nazareth, was arrested after he reportedly deliberately drove into the Jewish tourists and then began attacking some of them with a sword and knife.

His family, which lives in Nazareth, was stunned by the news. They said it was far more likely that the incident had been an accident and that Abu-Radiya had then tried to defend himself.

Members of the family maintained that although he was a devout Moslem, he did not belong to Hamas or any extremist Islamic organization. "Bakar has worked for many years in the center of the country

and has never been associated with any political party or Islamic organizations," his father Mohammed told reporters yesterday.

"I know my son well. He works hard as a contractor and returns home every day from the center of the country. He has a good heart and it is inconceivable that he would be entangled in an incident as serious as is being suggested," he said.

Abu-Radiya is one of 13 brothers and sisters and is himself married with four children.

Members of the family said he had been suffering from severe intestinal pains and had been troubled lately by financial worries and "problems at home." A relative noted that Bakar Abu-Radiya had worked with Jews for many years and was on good terms with them.

Police with search warrants conducted searches at the suspect's home and reportedly confiscated some tapes and computer discs.

## PA calls Levy-Arafat meeting unproductive, Israel labels it successful

By JAY BUSHINSKY

Official Israeli and Palestinian assessments of the Brussels meeting between Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat were as divergent yesterday as their respective attitudes towards settlements, security, and Jerusalem.

While Levy's upbeat evaluation of the European Union-sponsored meeting permeated government quarters here, Arafat's downbeat reaction filtered down through the ranks of his administration.

"We have every reason to be optimistic," Levy told reporters in the Belgian capital. "We have taken a step forward."

But Arafat took a diametrically opposite position: "Nothing was achieved yesterday," he said. "I am looking to achieve something concrete. We are not asking for the moon."

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Aviv Shiron said the Israeli diplomatic team accompanying Levy was "pleasantly surprised" by Arafat's attitude and comments.

Shiron said the two leaders agreed to reconvene the nine bilateral committees formed by the Oslo accords four years ago and whose work has been stymied.

"There is momentum in the network," Shiron said.

Other government sources said the summit cleared the way for the new American plan, according to which Israel and the PA would skip the second further redeployment and proceed to final-status talks.

Under the new American plan, six months would be allocated to this effort. If it becomes bogged down by disagreement, however, the two sides would negotiate the parameters of the second redeployment and the IDF would withdraw accordingly.

"The positive thing about the Levy-Arafat meeting," the sources went on, is that they are talking again. "The talk itself is a breakthrough."

But the PA's Hassan Asfour, who serves on the Palestinian negotiating team, doubted Levy's sincerity in promising to reconvene the nine committees and resolve such outstanding issues as prisoner releases,

safe passage between the West Bank and Gaza Strip, and the opening of a Palestinian seaport and airport.

He attributed the US and Egyptian bids to promote Israeli-Palestinian negotiations to a common fear of imminent unrest. These intermediaries want to stave off an explosion, he said.

"Israeli ministers while in international capitals say they are with the agreement and want to implement it," Asfour said. "But here they say they are against the agreement and this is why I doubt what Levy said."

"There is no room for anything as long as the land is being confiscated and the file of settlement activity in the West Bank and Gaza is open," Asfour said. He dismissed Netanyahu's call for immediate talks on staging the final-status talks, contending that this is a "trick" designed to enable Israel to retain the areas gained 30 years ago in the Six Day War.

US sources said fear that the US Congress might reduce its financial support for the PA made Arafat go to Brussels.

come up the ministers had been given freedom to vote as they wished.

"I'm surprised the Labor Party has left the line of Rabin," he said. He said Rabin had promised he would bring all decisions on territorial concessions on the Golan Heights to a referendum, "but the Labor Party has gone so far left it not only wants to go back to the Kinneret [as the border with Syria], but wants to do it without asking the people."

Meretz leader Yossi Sarid and MK Moshe Shabab (Labor) said they would submit a bill under which the Knesset would be able to remove the Speaker by an absolute majority vote after a discussion and vote in the Knesset House Committee and plenum. Tichon called on the opposition to

## GOLAN

Continued from Page 1

He criticized the MKs for getting up and leaving their places between the votes.

Oron is not the only person asking for a review of the procedures. Science Minister Michael Eitan, Harel, and Zandberg are also asking Tichon to include Dan Meridor (Likud) in the roll-call vote on Harel's bill, because he entered the plenum seconds after it finally ended. His vote would have been sufficient to allow Harel's bill to pass.

MKs from the Democratic Arab Party, who returned to the Knesset after a meeting with the president towards the end of the roll-call when Tichon went over the names of those absent, arrived in time to vote against the bill.

Most members of Geshet were absent, as was Ze'ev Begin (Likud), who left the building just before the voting began. He reportedly objects to the size of the majority being called for in the bill. Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu later told parliamentary reporters he hopes that the Zandberg's bill will be adjusted in committee. Netanyahu said

## Jaffa assailant of tourists remanded

News agencies

The Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court yesterday remanded in custody for 15 days the Israeli Arab who injured 12 tourists by ramming his car into a crowded plaza in Jaffa and then trying to stab passersby.

Twelve people were lightly injured in the Tuesday night - 10 of them from a group of British teenagers on a month-long visit. Bakr Abu-Radiya, 31, from Nazareth, was arrested at the scene.

Two Canadians, a mother and her daughter, were also lightly injured. They were treated at Ichilov Hospital and released.

A police spokesman said Abu-Radiya told interrogators he carried out the attack as revenge for a flier posted in Hebron by an Israeli woman last month depicting Mohammed as a pig.

Police said Abu-Radiya was known to have connections to Hamas.

Abu-Radiya was hospitalized with stomach pains and an apparent ulcer yesterday.



Bakr Abu-Radiya (Israel Sam)

Danny Consul, the off-duty border policeman who detained the assailant, said Abu-Radiya suddenly got out of the car "holding a sword in one hand and a commando knife in the

other". The assailant "swiped at several people and even hit a few," Consul said. "I pointed a gun at him and said 'Stop! Police! Get on the floor!'"

"The sight of the car accelerating will live with me forever," said 16-year-old Graham Kogan from Redbridge, England. "Him running after me with the sword - I'll never forget it. [It was] the scariest moment of my life."

The most severely hurt of the teenagers suffered a broken leg and the whole group left for Eilat yesterday.

Kogan said he had no intention of cutting short his visit. "I still want to carry on," he said.

The 15- to 17-year-olds, one in a cast and on crutches and others with bandages around their legs, spent yesterday recuperating in a Tel Aviv youth hostel.

The group of 40 British and Canadian Jewish teens arrived in Israel on Tuesday for a four-week "Israel Experience" tour sponsored by the Jewish Agency.

## Wounded kids continue trip

By ARYEH DEAN COHEN

What do you do to decompress after a terrorist attacks you with a knife? Go to Eilat.

The young members of the British "Federation of Zionist Youth Group # 4," which was in Jaffa on the first night of its program, left yesterday for relaxation in the Red Sea resort town.

A Jewish Agency spokeswoman said psychologists and other educators had met with the youngsters to help them get over the trauma of the attack, but that "they're really okay."

"I thought he was going to cut me to death. I thought I was going to die," 16-year-old Graham Kogan told AP yesterday.

A special "situation room" established Tuesday night here and in England immediately after the incident was closed yesterday, after the youngsters spoke with their families. All the youngsters were from the London area.

Director of the Joint Authority for Jewish-Zionist Education David Harman said "a call-center was immediately set up in London, and we handled calls through the night. There was no panic, and not one request or demand to return children home." The parents will also receive a written report on the incident.

"We also initiated calls to parents of kids on trips from Great Britain, just to reassure every-

body. We set up a similar center in Jerusalem to handle calls we might get from parents with kids on other programs, but we didn't get too many," he said.

Harman said the most serious injury among the youngsters was a broken ankle, and that after sleeping late this morning, the group celebrated the birthday of one of the participants at breakfast before heading off to Eilat by bus.

He described their morale as "very high" and said "they need a lot of time alone together." Harman said the youngsters had already been questioned by police about the incident, and described it as "a very bonding experience."

Kogan said he had no intention of cutting short his visit.

"I still want to carry on," he said. Following the incident, Jewish Agency Chairman Avraham Burg urged Diaspora Jewry to strengthen their connections with Israel and increase participation in "Israel Experience" programs, a Jewish Agency spokeswoman said.

"Whoever thinks Israel-Diaspora relations can be damaged through such actions clearly does not understand the strength of the Jewish People," he said.

Harman said proper security measures were being implemented to protect about 8,000 Diaspora youngsters currently here on various programs.

## Angry Hebron Jews threaten to build

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH

The Hebron Jewish community vowed yesterday to renew construction in their enclaves despite the current building freeze.

Yesterday Hebron leaders were outraged to discover that Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai had given his permission to go ahead with construction plans in three of the Jewish areas there. Despite this, the community has not been allowed to continue building.

According to a document that was received by the community yesterday, on April 1 Mordechai gave his approval to renew the construction at Beit Nahum in the Avraham Avim Quarter, at Beit Hashifa in Beit Hadassah and at Beit Romano. The document stated that the final authorization would be given by OC Central Command Maj.-Gen. Uzi Dayan, in accordance with the security situation.

The IDF Spokesman said last night that Mordechai was the only person who could give permission to construct or renew construction in Hebron.

Avi Benayahu, Mordechai's

spokesman, said yesterday that such authorization was Mordechai's responsibility and construction would go ahead only after he had coordinated with all security officials.

Noam Amon, spokesman for the Hebron Jewish community said last night that the constant freeze and delays are insufferable.

"We hope to start building tomorrow and if the authorities attempt to stop us I will show them the documents where it states very clearly that Mordechai gave his permission."

Amon added that the community had received hundreds of requests from people wishing to live there but there was currently no housing available.

Meanwhile, since Ma'aleh Ephraim in the Jordan Valley has advertised its "build your own home" project the town has been inundated with requests from people wishing to live there. According to Tami Atiya, Jordan Valley Regional Council spokeswoman, seven of the 13 plots up for sale have been purchased.

David Rudge adds:

The Golan Residents Committee said yesterday was a "great day for the Knesset and the state."

"The Knesset has relayed a clear message to Syria and the whole of the world that it is serious in its intention to ensure the continuation of Israeli sovereignty over the Golan," committee spokesman Uri Heimer said.

watch the video recording again to see that there were those who simply did not listen to him and did not stay in their seats.

Syria's official news agency said last night that the Knesset vote "is aimed at preventing a withdrawal from the Syrian Golan and represents an attempt [by Israel] to evade United Nations resolutions."

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מזמור הנחמה

AT THE KNESSET

Committee approves bill to separate inquiries

By LIAT COLLINS
The Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee has approved a bill which would mean that statements made in inquiries into military operational accidents and incidents would be privileged information and cannot be used as evidence in court.

chairman of the Knesset Economics Committee, yesterday continued to criticize his predecessor in the post, Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi (Likud), in view of the reports emphasizing that Hanegbi was paid a salary by a non-profit organization on road safety, while drawing up legislation on the topic in the committee he chaired.

By DAVID RUDGE and news agencies

Three South Lebanese Army soldiers were wounded when Hizbullah guerrillas detonated a roadside bomb near their patrol in southern Lebanon yesterday, security officials said.

The bomb blew up on a road near Jezzine as an armored SLA patrol drove by, said the officials. The wounded, one of them in serious condition, were taken to a hospital in Jezzine.

In a separate incident early in the morning, Hizbullah gunmen fired a Sagger anti-tank missile at SLA troops in the Beit Yaboun area, in the western sector of the security zone. There were no casualties, and SLA gunmen returned fire.

Kahalani ready to meet with Assad

Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani said in an interview published yesterday that he was ready to go to Syria to discuss a plan for IDF troops to pull out of south Lebanon.

He told Al-Rai Al-Aam that the withdrawal from Lebanon should occur as soon as possible because "the Israeli army can protect the settlements and the towns in northern Israel from the international border."

ment officials yesterday rejected an offer by SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad to enter into negotiations over a withdrawal of the SLA from the Jezzine enclave, north of the security zone.

Beirut newspapers quoted one official as saying that Lahad was presenting an Israeli-initiated "Jezzine first" option, which would be rejected out of hand by the Lebanese government.

The official maintained there is no difference between Jezzine and the security zone itself, all of which should be treated under UN Security Council Resolution 425, which calls for the withdrawal of

the IDF from southern Lebanon. Lahad was quoted in Lebanese newspapers earlier this week as saying that he was "ready to negotiate with the Lebanese authorities or any of its representatives to withdraw from Jezzine and hand over the district."

The Lebanese daily As-Safir quoted another government official as saying the authorities would have no dealings with Lahad, who is "wanted by the law, not for negotiations."



Deputy Education Minister Moshe Peled (right) addresses journalists at a press conference in Tel Aviv yesterday, after Yishai Dotan (left), who headed the civilian inquiry into the Maccabiah bridge collapse, presented the committee's report.

IN CONTEXT / HERB KEINON

The committee syndrome

If it was an Israeli penchant for misplaced self-confidence and lack of attention to details that led to the collapse of the bridge at the Maccabiah games, it is our ritualistic inclination to set up committees of inquiry that will allow us to compartmentalize this tragedy and move on.

tragedy was a culmination of lack of coordination among those charged with security, lack of a clear chain of command, and very poor judgment.

that dissimilar from the results of the comptroller's annual reports - they uncover omissions, problems, corruption, and unpreparedness. But they change little on the ground.

of life seriously, or that we don't get to the bottom of even our most uncomfortable foul-ups. But that we will learn the lessons? Well, that is a different matter entirely.

Maccabi Australia demands compensation from government

By HEATHER CHAIT

After the shock, the mourning and the accusations, come the financial demands. Tom Goldman, President of Maccabi Australia, called on the Israeli government yesterday to make a "substantial gesture" and pay \$500,000 to the families of the bereaved and injured.

committee because I was party to the whole process and the contracting of the bridge. I had no doubt that they acted seriously and took the right decisions. I saw absolutely no fault in their work. The report has come to the same conclusions.

Uzi Netanel, Chairman of Maccabi World Union, echoed Bakalarz's comments. "The report showed that we had no hand whatsoever in this failure," but added that as an "organized body," Maccabi would be ready in the event of lawsuits.

"The people of Israel have responded," Goldman told a press conference at Kfar Hamaccabiah, referring to the quick action by soldiers and volunteers at the site of the accident. "Now the government needs to respond."

Whether we implement the findings, however, is a different story. Had the organizers of the Maccabiah read the report of the Agnon Committee, which investigated the Arad disaster that left three dead and over 60 people injured two years ago, it is possible that the bridge would not have collapsed.

The amount, a "drop in the ocean," according to Goldman, would help the affected families until their insurance claims are processed. Saying the Australian community is "upset, sad and very angry," Goldman expressed his apprehension at returning home "empty-handed."

There are still two participants in very serious condition in Ichilov Hospital, Wilcox added, but the remainder have recovered and are in good spirits. The Agnon Committee found that, among other things, that

Goldman mentioned that he would have expected such an offer of financial assistance to be forthcoming from the Israeli government, without his prompting. He noted that an Australian team relief fund was launched here on Tuesday night and a public appeal has also been made in Australia.

There are still two participants in very serious condition in Ichilov Hospital, Wilcox added, but the remainder have recovered and are in good spirits. The Agnon Committee found that, among other things, that

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הכזמן האחרון

# North and South Korea close to sealing food agreement

BEIJING (Reuters) - The South Korean Red Cross said yesterday an agreement for more food aid for hungry North Korea would likely be signed this week, despite a complaint by Pyongyang that Seoul's offer is not enough.

Southern officials had offered the North a food aid package of about 50,000 tons of rice and corn, a plan similar to one agreed in May, said Lee Byoung-woong, secretary-general of the South Korean Red Cross Society.

"We suggested the second assistance program be almost the same as the first assistance program," Lee told reporters at a briefing after a first round of talks in Beijing.

In Seoul, a South Korean Red Cross official said, the 50,000 tons of food would be available for delivery to the disaster-plagued North by the end of October.

"Our South Korean Red Cross also suggested to the North Korean Red Cross that medical items and clothes be exchanged," Lee said.

Lee said the talks had gone well, and South Korean Embassy spokesman Chang Moon Ik said Red Cross officials hope an agreement could be signed after further meetings today.

However, Chue Gyeongrin, head of the North Korean Red Cross delegation, said Seoul's offer is not big enough, especially compared with aid donations from other countries.

"Today's talks were very friendly and I am very optimistic about the prospects of tomorrow's talks," Chue told reporters after the morning round of talks.

"They want as much as possible," Seoul embassy spokesman Chang said, adding that the southern Red Cross was unable



Nippon Foundation chairman Yohei Sasakawa holds a plastic bag containing 150 grams of rice, the average quantity of food for a North Korean per day, at a news conference in Tokyo yesterday. (AP)

# Mubarak urges launch of Pan-Arab market

By SALAH NASRAWI

CAIRO (AP) - Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak urged Arab governments yesterday to speed up efforts to set up an Arab economic market, which he said was needed to compete with major world economic blocs.

But in a remark seemed designed to mollify Israel's concerns that such a move will exclude it, Mubarak said the Arab common market should only be a start for wider regional cooperation.

"We want an Arab economic entity that preserves the Arab interests in this era of large international blocs," he said, in a speech marking the 45th anniversary of the army coup which toppled the monarchy in Egypt.

Egypt recently has pushed for reactivation of decades-old agreements by the 22-member Arab League on promoting inter-Arab trade. It has signed accords with several Arab countries to set up duty-free zones and plans to negotiate more.

Mubarak said trade among Arab countries remains "scarce and weak." It is just 8 percent of the Arab countries' world trade.

While Mubarak said the Arabs did not want a confrontation with

# Arabsat upholds ban on French supplier

DUBAI (Reuters) - Arab satellite operator Arabsat will not reconsider its ban on a French channel for violating Islamic views of decency, Arabsat's director-general said.

Arabsat took a final decision to cancel the contract and there will be no return on that, Ahmad Badmah, director of the Riyadh-based company, said in remarks published yesterday by the *Al-Eqtisadiyah* business daily.

Arabsat stopped transmitting Canal France International (CFI) on Saturday for showing a pornographic film in violation of Islamic codes of decency. The French channel said the transmission was a technical mistake on the part of France Telecom.

State-funded CFI said it took no part in broadcasting the program, which it described as an "unacceptable incident which resulted from a technical error."

"We cannot be under the mercy of technical mistakes," Badmah said.

French diplomats in Saudi Arabia had tried to smooth over what could be a disaster for France's efforts to reach audiences in the Arab world, where most Western programs are US-made.

Arabsat, which operates satellite communications for Arab countries including television, telephone, and data transmission, is jointly owned by 21 Arab states.

In Paris, CFI officials said the cancellation of the Arabsat contract would cost 50 million francs (\$8.3 million) annually in lost advertising revenues and due to

# Milosevic sworn in as Yugoslav president

By JOVAN KOVACIC

BELGRADE (Reuters) - Slobodan Milosevic was sworn in as Yugoslav president yesterday, guaranteeing himself power for the next five years and promising to lead the country into material and spiritual renewal.

The dominant figure in Yugoslav politics since the breakup of the six-member federation in the early 1990s, he was prevented by the Serbian constitution from serving a third term as Serbian president.

His switch to the Yugoslav presidency, hitherto a relatively unimportant post, is widely interpreted as a tactic to remain the political supremo in Belgrade and the power broker in the crisis-ridden Balkans.

Milosevic, 55, was elected by the federal parliament on July 15 after Montenegro, the junior partner in the two-member Yugoslav federation, had thwarted his plans for a popular ballot.

"A time of responsibility lies ahead of us, to safeguard peace, freedom, and independence, to enable a speedy economic and cultural development, to organize a modern state, to establish a humane society," he told the parliament after taking the oath of office.

"We are launching a project of material and spiritual renewal and recovery of society as a whole, the economy, technology, the state, education, media, villages and towns, roads and bridges, hospitals and schools," he said.

He was greeted by lengthy applause when he entered the parliament chamber accompanied by his wife Mirjana Markovic, the influential leader of a leftist block and partner in the ruling coalition, his daughter Marija, and son Marko.

Milosevic, held responsible by many in the West for precipitating the breakup of Yugoslavia and the bloodshed that followed, also swore to fight for "achieving human and citizens' rights and freedoms and safeguarding peace and prosperity of all citizens of Yugoslavia."

Outside the building, hundreds of protesters shouted anti-Milosevic slogans, scuffled with the police, and pelted his car with old shoes, witnesses said.

Milosevic survived a serious challenge to his authority last winter when an opposition coalition mounted daily protests for three months, rallying up to 500,000 people at the peak of a campaign against local election fraud.

But the opposition failed to cash in on its popularity and the coalition collapsed amid bickering over power-sharing.

Milosevic consolidated his power but resentment among the population, a third of which lives in poverty, still runs high.

Milosevic resigned as Serbian president earlier in the day.

The post will be administered by the speaker of the Serbian parliament, Dragan Tomic, until presidential elections, which are due within 60 days.

## EUROPEAN JOURNAL

# France facing horrors of child sexual abuse

By JOHN THOR DAHLBURG

BORDEAUX (LA Times) - Even in this season of revealed, repeated horrors, the case prosecutors here are developing is a shocker: A mother is accused of renouncing her nine-year-old daughter to a neighbor in his 70s so he could fondle her and photograph and videotape their sexual encounters in the woods. The price per session was 200 francs, or \$34.50, authorities say.

"It leads you to ask yourself, 'What is going on in our society?'" commented a member of the prosecutors' office in this southwestern port city.

This summer, not a week goes by without allegations or revelations of new acts of sexual molestation in which some of the 13.5 million French boys or girls younger than 15 are the unwilling targets. Among the accused are some of the most trusted figures in society - priests, teachers, and summer youth camp counselors.

"What scares parents is that it can be anyone," said Annie Gaudiere, who runs a toll-free national telephone help line in Paris for victimized and abused children. "The problem is that anyone's children are close to becoming a suspect."

Like 50-year-old gym teacher Bernard Hanse, who was accused by a 13-year-old pupil of sexual assault. Last month, Hanse drove his car under a shady tree outside the Champagne region village of Orbay-l'Abbaye, parked, and shot himself in the head. His brother, Alain Hanse, accused politicians of stirring up a national frenzy that led to his brother's suicide.

"Let's remember those politicians who recently were saying, 'Let's stamp out pedophilia from the national educational system. Let's look at each teacher as a potential pedophile,'" Alain Hanse said.

Last year, it was neighboring Belgium that was convulsed by shock and horror when it was found that Marc Dutroux, 40, an out-of-work electrician, had kidnapped at least six girls, imprisoned them in an underground cell he built, and molested his helpless prisoners. At least two of the four girls whose bodies have been recovered starved to death in their dungeon after Dutroux was arrested.

The Dutroux affair rocked the small European country, because of blunders committed by police and prosecutors in investigating the abductions and the high-level protection that Dutroux and his accomplices appeared to have to enjoy.

This year, it has been France's turn to realize how vulnerable its children can be.

In large part, law enforcement officials and social workers involved with protecting minors point out, it is the tragic events in Belgium that have awakened French authorities and citizens to the potential risks, that encouraged victims to come forward, and that are forcing police to take the claims more seriously.

The French have traditionally been reluctant to deal with instances where an adult abused a position of trust and authority to sexually victimize a child.

But soon after taking office last month, Segolene Royal, minister for schools in the new Socialist-led government, said she was scandalized by the "self-defense reflex" of school administrators inclined to protect alleged pedophiles on their staffs.

A child's version of what happened was, more often than not, dismissed out of hand as fantasy or a fabrication, as in a 1967 film, starring the late Jacques Brel, in which a village teacher is wrongly accused of attempted rape by a girl pupil. Now, however, Royal said, "the word of

# Miss Hungary re-crowned after six-year court battle

By DUNCAN SHELLS

BUDAPEST, (Reuters) - Almost six years to the day since she was disqualified as Miss Hungary for having posed naked, beauty queen Antonia Balint was reawarded her crown after winning a court case against the organizers yesterday.

"She's a very courageous girl," said head of the jury Eniko Suto. "I'm delighted to hand her the crown which is rightfully hers."

Balint and second-placed Timea Raba both were disqualified immediately after the 1991 pageant when Hungarian newspapers printed photographs that had previously appeared in the magazine *Lui* and other publications.

Erich Reil, the man who wrote the rules for Miss World, had said Balint should hand her prize back. The local organizers, Multimedia Kft, then reclaimed the two contestants' prize money and named third-placed Orsolya Michna as the new Miss Hungary, sending her to the Miss World finals in London.

"I felt it was a huge injustice at the time because there was nothing in the contract I signed which said I'd done anything wrong," Balint said as she clutched her scepter to her black velvet dress after yesterday's award ceremony.

Balint and Raba had signed contracts with Multimedia, which was acting under license from Miss World in London.

"The rule had been completely mistranslated in the contract we signed with Multimedia," Balint's lawyer Katalin Kiszeley explained. "Instead of the clause about not being allowed to pose nude there was a sentence saying contestants who had done such pictures should not allow other magazines to publish them during the competition."

Balint was to have received a Renault Clio, as well but never saw it. She refused to hand over the crown and scepter and locked them away for six years in her parents' home.

A Budapest court finally ruled this month that Multimedia had misled Balint and awarded her damages plus the price of the Renault car plus interest, estimated to total \$30,000.

## CHRISTIANS

Continued from Page 1

These groups also say INS judges are frequently unwilling to acknowledge that Christians face imprisonment or death in several countries.

INS spokesman Brian Johnson rejected such criticism.

"To say that INS judges blatantly deny cases based on Christianity is totally unfounded," he said. "Immigration judges and asylum officers always update themselves about conditions in a country. INS has always given asylum to those who have demonstrated credible fear of persecution."

Shattuck said the State Department study focused on persecution against Christians because it was compiled in response to a demand from Congress for a report on that subject.

But he said the US government is "deeply committed to protecting freedom of religion for all faiths."

Officials said an advisory committee on religious freedom abroad will issue a comprehensive report covering all faiths by the end of the year.

The newly released report covers conditions in 78 countries ranging from Sudan, where the department found evidence of forced conversion to Islam and religiously-motivated torture and murder, to Belgium, where it said the government is trying to regulate sects it considers dangerous.

The study makes no effort to rank countries on the basis of their treatment of religion. Nevertheless, conditions in some countries stand out.

In Sudan, where the Moslem-dominated government is fighting rebels who are mostly Christians and animists, the department reported brutal repression of non-Moslems.

"There are reports that many Christians are victims of slave raids ... and some Christian children have been forced into reeducation camps where they are given Arab names and raised as Moslems."

The report also was sharply critical of China. It said the Beijing regime repressed all religious groups - Buddhist and Moslem as well as Christian - except for those controlled by the government.

Beginning last October, the report said, the Chinese authorities have been using "threats, demolition of property, extortion of 'fines,' interrogation, detention, and reform-through-education sentences" against unauthorized religious and social groups. Four Roman Catholic bishops and hundreds of other clergy have been imprisoned or disappeared, it said.

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look at demands

argument with the Authority over the improved conditions. The Authority spokeswoman said the strike by Arab shopkeepers in Jerusalem and a demonstration by families of some of the Palestinian prisoners in Gaza.

The Palestinian prisoners have started a one-day strike demanding their full rights, she said.

The hunger strike is a further step, she said, in elaborating.

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to promote greater understanding between Arabs and Jews. We believe that peace can be achieved and it seems this is the way through, despite the differences between Israel and the Arab world. We are concerned about the situation, but we are optimistic about what the future holds. We will continue to work for peace and stability in the region. We have been building up the organization in many ways. We have new work programs in many areas. We have been able to attract more people to our programs. We have been able to expand our reach. We have been able to provide more services. We have been able to help more people. We have been able to make a difference. We have been able to bring hope to many people. We have been able to build a better future. We have been able to create a brighter tomorrow. We have been able to make a positive impact. We have been able to change lives. We have been able to make a difference. We have been able to bring hope to many people. We have been able to build a better future. We have been able to create a brighter tomorrow. We have been able to make a positive impact. We have been able to change lives. We have been able to make a difference.



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## Wrong number

The telephone lines may have been engaged for the past two days in much of Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, but the message Bezeq workers meant to send was coming through loud and clear: the effort to privatize government-owned companies and eliminate monopolies will not be easy. There are powerful forces aligned against it, which will even take steps bordering on sabotage to do everything they can to prevent privatization. Exhibiting it has the determination needed to bring to realization the laudably ambitious privatization goals it has set for itself will be one of the stiffest tests faced by the government.

Last night's declaration of a "solidarity" strike by some 60,000 workers at 10 major government-owned companies is another gauntlet thrown in the face of this new reality.

For years, government-owned companies have flourished financially, protected by virtue of their monopoly position from the economic accountability demanded of private-sector corporations. The salaries and benefits that come with landing a job at monopoly companies like Bezeq have long been among the best available in Israel. This, of course, came at a price, and a glimpse at just how much it was costing the average citizen came earlier this month, when the introduction of competition in international telephone calls reduced Bezeq's international rates to as little as 25 percent of what they had been. The elimination of other monopolies can be expected to have just as dramatic an effect on prices in a number of sectors in which monopolies have for so long gouged captive consumers.

The workers at government-owned companies naturally fear that successful privatization will reduce their golden perks, and are ready to take disruptive action at the slightest of causes. The announcement last week that 12.5% of Bezeq stock had been sold to the Merrill Lynch brokerage house in the US for \$250 million triggered a Bezeq workers' union strike, which caused widespread damage in the millions of shekels. The apex of Bezeq sanctions occurred on Tuesday: trading at the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange was curtailed, travel agencies could not complete transactions, Internet communications were impossible in many areas, a number of National Insurance Institute offices were closed, and telephone banking services were disrupted. The daily lottery drawing had to be postponed till late at night, because these days even guessing a winner requires a telephone line. In some areas, malfunctions in telephone lines continued to be felt yesterday as well, as repairs were effected slowly.

These disruptions were only a small display of the power that monopolies like Bezeq can wield — a modest reminder of how increasingly dependent we all are on the threads of telecommunication wires laid down all around us in the computer age. A full-fledged, nation-wide telephone

strike would literally paralyze the economy. To underscore how strong they consider themselves, Bezeq's union chose to delay obeying a restraining order issued by the Tel Aviv District Labor Court on Tuesday evening, returning to work only the next morning and thus technically acting in contempt of court.

All this occurred despite major efforts repeatedly made by the Communications Ministry to assure Bezeq workers that their interests would also be protected as privatization proceeds. Numerous official letters have been sent to the union promising that Bezeq's financial strength would be preserved and that workers' rights would be safeguarded. The latest guarantee was given barely three weeks ago, when Communications Minister Limor Livnat charged the Government Companies Authority with turning over to Bezeq 75% of capital gains from future stock sales of the corporation, in order to finance a financial safety-net for Bezeq workers. This was done despite the fact that the government, as the owner of the corporation, has every right to sell its stock and use the proceeds as it sees fit.

It is outrageous that 8,000 workers in one company are able to hold over 5 million citizens hostage. This only serves to stress how important it is to put an end to the power of monopolies. Livnat deserves credit for refusing to bow to pressure. As befits a minister, she sees herself as representing the majority of citizens, and has stuck to her guns in seeking improved services and lower prices for all.

The entire government will yet be called upon to exhibit similar resoluteness: workers at other government-owned companies are planning or already have gone on "solidarity" strikes alongside Bezeq. Of course, the workers at these companies — including the Postal Authority, the Ports Authority, Mekorot, and the Israel Electric Corporation — are more concerned about what privatization will do to their privileges than about solidarity. And they also have the capability of causing great disruptions at every step of the way towards privatization.

In the long run, however, the monopolies' days are numbered, and the proof of that was evident during the worst hours of this latest Bezeq strike. Some of the companies providing stock-market information continued working, bypassing Bezeq by making resourceful use of satellite telecommunications. El Al, which lost much business during the strike, is reportedly considering establishing its own internal "Bezeq-bypass" communications network, whether satellite or cellular, to protect itself against future disruptions. The Bezeq workers' actions could only have further tarnished the image of the company in the eyes of the public, which at this point has the option of avoiding Bezeq at least in overseas calls. Proper government actions, coupled with increasingly flexible technological innovations, can in the end defeat monopoly power.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

**THRILLING MEMORIES**  
Sir, — Abba Eban's advanced years may explain his lapse of memory: He writes (July 4) that hardly anyone has had an irrepressible urge to celebrate anything in our region since partition had Israeli dancing in the streets 50 years ago.  
How else could he have forgotten the nationwide celebration and jubilation 30 years ago, upon the liberation of Jerusalem and Judea and Samaria? And how can't he recall the thrill and overwhelming joy caused by the IDF parade along the walls of united Jerusalem on the first Independence Day after the victory, in May 1968?  
Can it be that Mr. Eban simply does not want to remember?  
BEN SHUA  
Jerusalem.

**ENLIGHTENING ARTICLES**  
Sir, — I just wish to commend you on Jonathan Rosenblum's recent columns in your paper. His enlightening writings give a breath of fresh air to the scene by explaining the Orthodox religious point of view, hopefully balancing the anti-haredi atmosphere that pervades the media.  
Kudos for giving your readers a chance to see events from a different angle and perspective during these tumultuous times we live in.  
RABBI ELI TEITELBAUM,  
Director, Torah Communications Network  
Brooklyn, N.Y.

**BLUE-AND-WHITE**  
Sir, — I am puzzled by Helen Motro's remark ("Never again," July 8) about buying blue-and-white "back when the concept still carried a semblance of credibility." No more credibility to the idea of

**SAD RECOLLECTIONS**  
Sir, — Rabbi Ovadia Yosef's quotation on women brought back to me sad recollections. A year ago, when my beloved wife passed away, she was laid to rest in Jerusalem's cemetery in Har Hameuhot. Then I contacted the burial society in order to buy the empty plot near my wife's grave, so that I could be buried next to her. The burial society's reply to my request was negative, because on the other side of the empty plot there was a woman's grave and I could not be buried between two women. I asked the learned rabbi of my synagogue for an explanation and his laconic answer was "So it is written."  
DR. SAUL COLBI  
Jerusalem.

**MARK L. LEVINSON**  
Herzliya.

## FROM OUR ARCHIVES

50 years ago: On July 24, 1947, The Palestine Post reported that the United Nations Special Committee on Palestine met in Beirut, Mr. Hamid Franjieh, representing the Lebanon, Syria, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Yemen. He warned the committee that any settlement of the Palestine question must consider the rights of the Palestine Arabs or it would be "doomed to failure and the most serious consequences."  
A battle was fought in Central Jerusalem when the Irgun Zvai Leumi attacked the Mahaneh Yehuda Police Station. Large crowds of people hurrying to reach homes before the curfew were caught in the streets or buses when sirens sounded the

alarm before the appointed time. British soldiers and police in their armored vehicles opened fire on the passers-by while ambulances carrying the wounded were held up in the Zion Square.  
Shooting in the streets continued in Haifa where there were many wounded and ambulances found considerable difficulties while trying to get them to hospitals.  
In New York a mass protest was held in Madison Square in honor of the American hero, William Bernstein, the first mate of Exodus 1947 who was killed while trying to bring his Jewish brothers home.  
The Empire Lifeguard ship was blown up by a bomb in Haifa and it sank in shallow water. This explosion was the fourth in ships which the British Navy might have wished to use to deport "illegal" immigrants.  
The British Army High Command considered the imposition of martial law in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa while 19 British soldiers were injured, eight of them seriously, by bomb attacks and mines all over the country.  
25 years ago: On July 24, 1972, The Jerusalem Post reported that Syria was expected to follow Egypt's example and dismiss Russian military advisers.

Alexander Zvielli



## Eitan's exposé

URI DAN  
DENNIS EISENBERG

Benjamin Netanyahu has been talking tough these past few days, using "harsh words" as he "slammed Arafat's police terrorism." He wants the arrest of Brig-Gen. Ghazi Jabali for ordering his police commandos to kill Israelis at Har Bracha, close to Nablus.

Sternly, Netanyahu warns Arafat to desist from fomenting the Hebron rioting, which is "unacceptable."

Netanyahu's fellow kitchenette chef, Foreign Minister David Levy, threatened not to meet with Arafat in Brussels unless he "uprooted terrorist elements." The government was bold enough to list all Arafat's breaches of promise, including his obligation to extradite murderers of Jews, many of whom serve in the PA's galaxy of armed militias.

Also spelled out were the broken promises about amending the PLO Charter which calls for the destruction of the Jewish state.

During a private meeting, Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein once told Yitzhak Rabin that Arafat was "a pathological liar."

For a moment or two, one almost believed that Netanyahu's warnings were for real. And maybe, just maybe a chastised Arafat would cease instigating violence.

Harsh reality quickly set in. No sooner was Arafat in Brussels than a beautifully coiffed Levy was warmly shaking his hand. "Great strides in sweetening the bitterness of the past five months of acrimony" was how the two beaming men described their discussions.

Agriculture and Environment Minister Rafael Eitan decided to go and check things out on the ground. Flying over Gaza in a small aircraft he was shocked by what he saw. He returned with a bunch of aerial photographs, which he displayed at last Sunday's cabinet meeting.

There was no need for comment. Prominently featured was the frantic building of a massive breakwater for Arafat's future port. Also visible was a plant turning out the massive concrete blocks needed for such a major enterprise.

Eitan turned investigative reporter to prove that Arafat was engaging in yet another violation:

lowed without demur by the prime minister and his two close confidantes, Levy and Mordechai. Despite all Netanyahu's recent huffing and puffing, it is clear that he is persistently turning a blind eye to Arafat's contemptuous disregard of every agreement he has made, just like the previous government.

Does it matter if Arafat builds a port? Yes. It is vital to his plans. He exploited Beirut's port in the late '70s and early '80s, importing vast quantities of weapons and building up a sophisticated military machine in southern Lebanon. He even smuggled in heavy tanks.

To dodge Lebanese customs he had the tanks dismantled, crated and reassembled in his military camps.

This suggests that as soon as his Gaza breakwater is completed, Arafat will be poised to import anything he likes, with no controls whatsoever.

And any Israeli attempt to stop vessels on the way to Gaza and check their cargoes will certainly prompt a major anti-Israeli onslaught in the UN.

Eitan's evidence points to just one more example of a direct breach of Arafat's agreements with Israel.

Only a simpleton would suggest that Netanyahu and his defense minister don't know what is going on in Gaza. Israel has a high-powered intelligence service, and its own satellite which could, if needed, provide a precision photograph of the number plates of Saddam Hussein's car.

So Netanyahu and Yitzhak Mordechai surely also know that Arafat has already completed a terminal for his airport which will make it difficult, if not impossible, for Israel to inspect who comes and goes, something originally laid down by Jerusalem.

According to diplomatic sources, all this has been swal-

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## PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



It's the ultimate in hood ornaments: an actor dressed as a Roman soldier pops through a hole in the car at an outdoor theater performance in Zurich.

# Tzahi's way

LARRY DERFNER

It doesn't pay anymore to insist that the minister of justice set an example of ethical, decent or even law-abiding behavior to this country. When Tzahi Hanegbi is the justice minister, you don't want to set your sights too high.

Hanegbi's latest gambit — pocketing NIS 113,000 from friendly donors for doing nothing except being an MK (this is a charitable reading of the "Derech Tzaha" scandal) — rates as one of his more matter-of-fact outrages.

He has quite a history, our justice minister. In this forgiving, forgetful time, people write off his political activities at Hebrew University to youthful exuberance, an excess of ideological passion. Anyway, it happened nearly 20 years ago.

What happened is that Hanegbi organized a gang of chain-wielding goons to come onto campus and beat the hell out of Arab and left-wing Jewish students. He was convicted in court for it, and given a five-month suspended prison sentence.

Our justice minister. What a wild, crazy kid he was. He never practiced as a lawyer. But Hanegbi does have trial experience — not only as a convicted defendant, but also as a malicious witness.

Trying to destroy a few of his rivals in university politics, he testified that they embezzled money from a student travel agency. The judge said of Hanegbi's testimony: "The truth was not always a lamp unto his feet" (judicialese for "he lied").

But that was long ago. Why bring it up? And why bring up Hanegbi's role in the hate campaign that led to Rabin's murder? It's history.

It was an open secret that Hanegbi was the Likud's liaison to the most radical, racist, violent groups that made war on Rabin.

On Jerusalem Day 1995, he commanded a microphone and, in front of a crowd including the foreign diplomatic corps, harangued the prime minister.

Does he apologize for any of this? Are you kidding? Does he

## He has quite a history, our justice minister

apologize for what he did in the Bar-On Affair? More ancient history.

The police recommended indicting him for being part of a conspiracy to corrupt the office of attorney-general, but Elyakim Rubinstein decided he had only acted deceitfully and irresponsibly, not criminally.

So Hanegbi declared victory. He'd been vindicated. The popular verdict was that if he was not an accused felon he was clean enough to carry on as justice minister.

HANEGBI can get away with anything. He accuses Ehud Barak, the most decorated soldier in Israel's history, of leaving bleeding, wounded soldiers to die at Tze'elim 2. The army investigation says it's a lie, general after general says it's a lie, politicians from Right and Left call Hanegbi a thug, a hooligan, a brute, and he keeps smiling.

Two of Hanegbi's former army reserve commanders say he was court-martialed and bounced from unit to unit for failing to turn up for duty. Slander, politically motivated slander, says Hanegbi, and this too goes down the memory hole.

He gets into a traffic dispute and end up pulling his pistol on a guy. Some lawyers in the Justice Ministry begin referring privately to their boss as "the gun-slinger."

"The police investigation of this matter has been closed," says the minister's spokeswoman. Well, that's encouraging.

Hanegbi has about the most chilling look in his eyes of any Israeli politician I can think of. Someone suggested that it's a look of defiance, that Hanegbi's thinking: "I've pulled another dirty one, and once again I'm going to skate."

Does anybody believe it's going to be different this time? Of Hanegbi's NIS 113,000 "salary" in the Derech Tzaha affair, Tommy Lapid, Israel's vox populi, writes: "As a shameless trick, it probably has no rival in the history of Israeli politics..."

But for our justice minister, it's small strokes. He'll survive it easily, and soon everything will be forgotten.

Remember, we are living through Scoundrel Time in Israel, when guys like Hanegbi rise to the top.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

# Antise in

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.





# Heretics turned heroes

They were convicted of treason over half a century ago. Now their relatives want to see them exonerated. Marilyn Henry meets the families of Germans who resisted the Nazis

The widows and children of heretics-turned-heroes gathered last Sunday in Berlin, as they have every year on the anniversary of the 20 of July. That single day in 1944 stands out in the history of the German resistance to Hitler — the day a handful of military officers was prepared to kill the Nazi leader.

Their plot failed. Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg, a career officer, placed a bomb-laden briefcase under an oak table in Hitler's so-called Wolf's Lair headquarters. When the bomb exploded during a military briefing, the room was destroyed and four people were killed. Hitler was spared and unleashed his wrath on his opponents. Some 5,000 people were arrested after the attack; about 200, including von Stauffenberg, were executed.

There were hundreds of resistance groups in Hitler's Germany, whose acts ranged from brief but risky moments of dissent, to political opposition and military resistance. Many were nationalist, authoritarian, anti-democratic and antisemitic. What they had in common was revulsion for the Nazi regime.

Those who were caught were condemned as traitors. More than 50 years later, their social stature seems clear — they are honored as heroes, not censured as heretics. On the anniversary of the 20 of July, their survivors are feted by officials. For many, however, their legal position is murky.

There have been a number of court cases and political decrees in the last five decades that have "rehabilitated" many who were condemned by the Nazi courts. At the same time, though, many sentences from those courts are still valid. A prominent case in Berlin last August shook those judgments when the court exonerated the Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer of treason — a half-century after he was hanged at Flossenburg in the final days of the war. The Berlin court also ruled that those who were condemned with Bonhoeffer — military men Wilhelm Canaris, Ludwig Gehre and Hans Oster, and military judge Karl Sack — were innocent of treason.

The campaign to rehabilitate Bonhoeffer was launched by theologians who believed he had not been exonerated. However, the Berlin court ruled that the conviction had actually been overturned by a 1946 Bavarian law that annulled all such Nazi judgments in Bavaria. It was not universal; the various West German states had their individual, and idiosyncratic, measures before the Federal Republic came into existence in 1949.

The Berlin ruling has paved the way for a review of the legal status of others who retain the mark of the condemned.

In many instances, however, the families did not want such consideration. For them, the idea of "rehabilitation" is irrelevant or insulting.

"The Dohnanyi and Bonhoeffer families don't need the verdict of a German court to know that what these two men did was right," said Johannes von Dohnanyi, the grandson of Christine Bonhoeffer (Dietrich's sister) and Hans von Dohnanyi, a military intelligence official who was tortured and



(Clockwise from upper left): Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, career officer Colonel Claus von Stauffenberg and military colleague Wilhelm Canaris — all condemned as traitors and executed by the Nazis.

hanged in April 1945 in Sachsenhausen after an SS summary court proceeding. Bonhoeffer and von Dohnanyi were executed as plotters against Hitler, but their arrest, in April 1943, had resulted from their successful transfer of a small group of Jews to Switzerland, for which they had to pose as German intelligence agents.

(Another Bonhoeffer sister, Ursula, also was married to a member of the resistance, Ruediger Schleicher, SS Gruppenführer Ernst Kaltenbrunner, who was convicted at Nuremberg and hanged in 1949, once wrote of the "treacherous antagonism of the whole clan").

"To be found guilty of high treason was not a moral negative," said Helmut von Moltke, whose father, also Helmut, was sentenced to death by a People's Court and executed in January 1945. Von Moltke, an international lawyer who worked with the military intelligence service, the Abwehr, was a founder of the Kreisau Circle, an aristocratic resistance group dedicated to creating a genteel post-Hitler Germany. When von Moltke's wife, Freya, applied for a widow's pension from the German government after the war, an official told her that, to qualify, she also would have to apply for the reversal of von Moltke's death penalty. She got the pension, but refused

to seek a reversal of his sentence. "You cannot take away the fact that it happened. He was executed," she said. "What does it mean, I want to have it lifted after he was killed?" "He was a practical man acting from a combination of political and moral judgment," von Moltke's son said of his father. "He did commit high treason. He was proud of the fact. We see no reason to have that judgment reversed." Others, though, are seeking exoneration. "As long as the verdict is not changed, they will remain traitors," said George J. Wittenstein, a surviving member of the inner circle of the White Rose. The White Rose — a handful of students and a professor, Kurt Huber, from the

University of Munich — wrote leaflets calling for passive resistance to the Nazi regime. Six leaflets were produced between the summer of 1942 and February 1943.

But the White Rose was quashed when brother and sister Hans and Sophie Scholl were arrested on February 18, 1943, after a janitor saw them dropping pamphlets from a balcony at the university. Their White Rose partner, Christoph Probst, was arrested a short time later. The three were guillotined on February 22, 1943. Huber was executed by guillotine five months later.

The main impetus for rehabilitation, however, now appears to be aimed less at exonerating individuals than at prodding society and rehabilitating institutions.

Those who want legal rehabilitation for the resisters also want to encourage people to follow their consciences rather than the law, said Heinrich Bedford-Strohm, a social ethicist at the University of Heidelberg.

"It is no coincidence that former East German dissidents are in the forefront of the group demanding legal rehabilitation of the resisters," he said. "They had to disobey the East German law themselves to start the German revolution of 1989." There was an echo of this sentiment last May, when the German parliament started to absolve Reich-era conscientious objectors and deserters.

"German soldiers were torn between fulfilling their duty and resisting a criminal leadership," Justice Minister Edward Schmidt-Jortzig said before the parliament voted in May to provide compensation to the surviving objectors, many of whom had been condemned to death or sent to concentration camps. That parliamentary measure, however, does not call on the German justice system to lift its guilty verdicts.

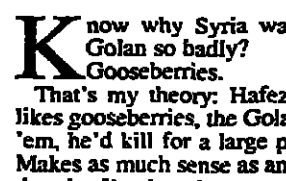
Bonhoeffer would need rehabilitation only if there was a significant number of people who still believed that being condemned by Nazi judges is a moral blemish, Bedford-Strohm said, noting that this is not the case in modern Germany. But if the resisters are legally still guilty, it would "enshrine" the legitimacy of the legal system that condemned them to death.

The Bonhoeffer case posed a special embarrassment because it showed the reluctance of German institutions to deal with their past, he said. In 1956, the Federal Supreme Court had acquitted the judge who had condemned Bonhoeffer and his four fellow resisters. The court said the resisters had fit the criteria for high treason according to the National Socialist laws, and therefore, the court did not see any reason for legal action against those who had condemned them.

In fact, it is the German legal justice system that needs rehabilitation, it has to work at regaining its integrity by examining its activities in light of its central moral objective: to protect and foster the dignity of the human being, Bedford-Strohm said.

"If discussion of the Bonhoeffer verdict has helped us understand this better," he said, "it has certainly served a good purpose."

Not Page One  
**There's blue in them thar hills**  
By Sam Orbaum



Know why Syria wants the Golan so badly? Gooseberries. That's my theory: Hafez Assad likes gooseberries, the Golan's got 'em, he'd kill for a large plateful. Makes as much sense as any other theories I've heard.

The aroma of fresh berries wafts teasingly across the border from Moshav Sha'al, a cruel form of subliminal seduction that can't be good for the peace process.

The aroma of fresh berries wafts teasingly across the border from Moshav Sha'al, a cruel form of subliminal seduction that can't be good for the peace process.

to live in the Promised Land hit him. He started off in Yeroham, then 20 years ago, in search of agricultural opportunities, moved as far away as possible. In 1993, he teamed up with Roni Levy, another of Sha'al's 40 homesteaders, to set up the country's most extensive berry field where once tanks and troops crisscrossed.

The way things are going, we can still expect to be holding onto the Golan before this crop of blueberries has been harvested. The berry men of the region's only Herut moshav are looking further yonder. Like most farmers on the Heights, they're not ready to uproot and flee south: Mushmush says they're planning to add five dunams to the farm. He was cagey about what new wonders they'd be offering, but chuckled that we shouldn't expect rice paddies.

Now they've got 10 dunams of produce people pay to pick: red and green gooseberries, raspberries (red and yellow), cherries, apples, kiwis, currants (red and black), blackberries and blueberries. Visitors pay NIS 12 to get in, they can eat all they want, and then pay a flat fee of NIS 20 per kilo of anything they take away — which is a heckuva good deal, considering that blueberries go for NIS 60 a kilo in town, if you can find them. "Families come with cottage cheese, or sour cream, they pick their favorite berries and then make a picnic out of it," Mushmush says. "It's more fun than a barbecue." It's like an immense roadside fruit stand, but you don't have to ask what's fresh.

(I'm hoping for apricots. After Carmela gave me a taste of what she calls a "mishmush berry jam," the marketing possibilities hit me: I mean, who could resist buying something called "Mushmush's Mishmush Mishmash"? It seems to have a particular fondness for the world's only blue food. As we chat, he instinctively reaches out and plucks a few. "We've got 10 rows of blueberries; each one a different strain, each strain a different taste."

Mushmush's wife Carmela gives you a basket and sends you off like Little Red Riding Hood into the bushes (if you're really into playingact, you can pretend Assad is the Big Bad Wolf). Up and down the rows, nibbling as you go, there's an aboriginal pleasure

Mushmush couldn't help himself, cutting into the profits. He pops them like Qualudes. "It used to be that you could get almost everything in Israel, but to find blueberries here was just a dream," he says. "It's not a dream anymore."

# Antisemitic backlash in Switzerland

Two men and two women, sitting at wooden school desks facing the audience, read staccato from dozens of letters to newspapers from Swiss readers.

At first the letters are mild, but the tone quickly becomes nasty, intensified by the actors' rising voices and by anti-Jewish jokes among the excerpts.

The letters, written over the last six months, were read out recently in a suburb of Bienne, an industrial city in northwest Switzerland known for its watchmaking.

The performance, planned to tour other cities this autumn, has put Swiss antisemitism on center stage at a time when the country's actions during World War II are being reexamined.

Switzerland is struggling to come to terms with how the turning away of Jewish refugees at the border and holding on to Jewish bank deposits and assets fits the country's heroic image as a neutral haven from the power of Nazi Germany.

A Swiss actress, Shelley Kastner, collected the letters, written in German, from newspapers and from Swiss Jewish officials. Some letters had been published but others were considered too extreme to be printed.

One began with the writer confessing to "increasing feelings of shame" over the disclosures of Swiss actions in the 1940s.

The sentiments turned harsher with an excerpt that said, "Switzerland is being terrorized by Jewish circles." Another writer urged Jews to "get lost before your synagogues go up in

Many writers took aim at the restitution fund that the Swiss government is seeking to set up for Holocaust victims.

ple." Such sentiments prompted some in the audience to shake their heads or grimace.

The four actors, starkly lit against a black curtain, ended the performance chanting, in unison, from a letter: "We are back! Heil Hitler! Heil Hitler!" When the spotlights were turned off, Vital Epelbaum, a member of Bienne's tiny Jewish community, said during a panel discussion that the letters had prompted him to remember the man who, during the war, had shouted at him after school: "Bad Jew! Go back where you came from!"

Epelbaum, 62, who was born in Bienne, said he had never told his family about the incident. At the time, he said, his grandfather's best friend had recently severed their lifelong relationship, saying he could not be friends with a Jew.

But like many members of the Swiss Jewish community — which numbers only 18,000 — Epelbaum, a lawyer, was not overly critical. "It wasn't so bad," he said. "After all, I am happy, fat and old now." Another Jew in Bienne, Leon Reich, 70, urged members of the audience to act on their conscience whenever they saw something wrong.

Reich, now an industrial inventor who came to Switzerland after surviving Buchenwald, said: "I don't think the Swiss were so bad. They've done what others have done, nothing worse." (AP)

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He has quite a history, our justice minister



# Man of two worlds

Mike Scheidemann interviews  
Druse poet Naim Araidi

Talking to Naim Araidi, we soon learn that we are confronting a man at home in at least two cultures: Hebrew and Arabic. At an early age he quit the idyllic setting of Kfar Maghar, a Druse village in northern Galilee, leaving behind childhood innocence to make with heroic effort — the world his oyster. His only tools were his wits and his ambition, tempered by an unflagging idealism. "Is it safe to say that you are first and foremost a poet?" "Absolutely. By choice I am a poet and it's related to my feeling for language, not only my mother tongue. And the feeling that poetry more than anything else helps us express our humanity."

"When did you begin writing?" "I wrote my first serious poem when I was 22, and it was published in the literary section of *Davar*. I have since written essays on literature, which have been published widely, most recently in *The New York Times*. Generally, I publish to bring European literary traditions to the Arabic world. I have been editing and translating children's stories from Hebrew into Arabic."

"What about your poetry?" "Poets usually write about three things: death, loneliness and sorrow. I have written 10 books on these subjects, both in Hebrew and Arabic."

"Your poetry is not morbid or negative. I heard you read a fine love poem at the Jerusalem poetry festival recently. Even your poems of death, as far as I know, are not so sad: *For you are the one who does not know death, for the death in you has fallen like a fruit that has fallen from the top of a tree.*"

"Writing of the dead is not experiencing the deed. Writing of death is not experiencing death, thank God. Basically I am an optimist. We must change or suffer. I would like to think of myself as a modern poet, though the aesthetic values we inherit from our traditions are essential for my writing. Why reject a gift given us from the past? I am also a provincial poet and one of my favorite collections is still my first: *Back into the Village*, published by Am Oved."

"I have also written an unpublished novel, though I've long signed a contract for it; about the same village, contrasted with the streets of Tel Aviv, under the shadow of those infamous Scud missiles. I try to bring in the conflicting reactions between the Arabs and the Jews."

"My vocation is to call attention to things some hardly think about."

Where is the strong voice of Amos Oz? Has Amichai ever expressed conviction? Meir Shalev is a fine writer, but he hides behind the shutters of his house.

"You have said that you draw your aesthetic values from literary traditions..."

"Esthetics are vital to raise to the highest level ordinary concepts and perceptions, especially in the face of mass media and simple entertainment. I speak of poetry but I refer to all art forms."

"Do you see yourself as a modern man?"

"Modern life is in fact only a few decades old. I like to think of myself as a man of the world, and this is my problem. I am at home in the world but have no real power in it."

"You have written of Jean-Paul Sartre quite fondly."

"One has to be fond of Sartre to muddle through his clumsy philosophy. Existentialism goes back to individuals of at least two centuries ago. It does thrive today among the political and moral chaos. I admire Sartre's influence on his society. He wasn't really revolutionary like Khomeini was in Iran. Khomeini's influence was totally negative. His was a regressive revolution. If Sartre didn't revolutionize France it's because he was dealing with a rational, solid establishment. It's this rationalism that I want to introduce to our dreadfully emotional Arab society."

"We are talking about a modern world that is culturally in pieces. Values have lost meaning; traditions are in shreds."

"Maybe, but we can't live without them. Our language and thoughts depend on them. We need our battered cultures to remind us of the depths of our existence."

"What about religion?"

"I am not a religious Druse, but I believe in God. We need God to protect us from ourselves. We need God to restore us our values, though your values may vary from mine. This acknowledgment is important. Islamic fundamentalists consider only their own values, not yours. Anyway, without God, science imposes its own rationale, and this is not good enough."

"You seem to have dynamic ideas about education. You have even hinted at cultural influences on the unborn child."

"That I said tongue in cheek, though I did try it on one of my boys. Today he loves the European classical music he might have heard while he was taking form inside his mother. Generally speaking, the young in Third World countries are taken for granted until they can be useful. The only attention paid to us was through religion, so we grew up frightened of punishment, terrified of evil. We were not encouraged to think for ourselves. I broke away from this tyranny early, and the price or punishment for my exploration or curiosity was more terror. I went into exile in my own land."

"Is this not the price of awareness, for intellectuals and creative people everywhere?"

"Maybe, but I have striven to be involved in the world ever since I can remember. It is no accident that the intellectuals and writers of Egypt and Iran live outside their countries. All real revolution in history was perpetrated by the intellectuals. They are the real representatives of the people. The writers are the ones to lend empathy to the other side. The politicians are too bound by economics and their own selfish interests."

"Cannot your own vision be blinkered by politics?"

"Maybe that is the price I must pay to my society. Before the 1970s the intellectuals had a greater say in the governing of the State. I remember Golda Meir once postponing a trip to America because of a local writers' congress."

"Where are we with the peace process?"

"Nowhere! After three years the groundwork has barely been laid. There is a continual atmosphere of war and no understanding on either side. The politicians with their posturing cannot achieve a real, deep peace. We are all seduced by the American world, but it demeans us and exhausts our spirit."

"Must we pander to their politics? Journalists have more power in America than their politicians. Journalists and writers share one association. Where are their intellectuals?"

"What is the future for our poetry in a commercial world with its mass media and communications?"

"The vast pool of literature that we have inherited is our greatest asset, and as long as we remain human we will continue to read it. Poetry will thrive, pointing the way to self-knowledge."

"Has it not become all too obscure and personal?"

"Our imaginations will dictate the rules. Our humanity depends on it. When I express feelings, thoughts and emotions, I need new images to express the shades and depths. Not everyone can write creatively, but everyone can read our literature, to lift us out of our commonplace worlds and add new dimensions to our lives."



Araidi: I want to introduce rationalism to our emotional society.

# Post-modern devils

WICKED WOMEN: Stories by Fay Weldon. New York, The Atlantic Monthly Press. 309pp. \$23.

By Deborah Mason

Fay Weldon has never been content merely to play God with her characters: she would rather be the avenging Yahweh. Her justice is unblinking, her wrath is boundless — most often directed against faithless husbands and their scheming lovers — and her punishments are indecently satisfying. She is a Yahweh with a profound appreciation of irony.

Weldon, after all, is the creator of the wronged and lumpy wife in "The Life and Loves of a She-Devil" who inflicts a fiendishly comic, years-long revenge on her accountant husband and his romance-novelist lover by turning their own conceits against them. Exploiting the husband's financial arrogance and his mistress's fantasy of the invincibility of love, Weldon's heroine siphons off their bank accounts, their fizzy Champagne romance and, finally, their sanity.

With 21 novels and three story collections, Weldon has reigned as the champion of the discarded wife, the embryonic woman who grows up by default and becomes shrewd by suffering. Her genius is to portray all this heroic self-discovery not with sermonizing but with deft satire.

In *Wicked Women*, Weldon's bristling new collection of stories, she broadens her targets. Attuned to the deeper currents of family and sexual unrest, this satire is so stinging that reading it is like seeing someone stripped of clothing in a public place. Yes, Weldon's heroines still deal with cheating spouses and struggle to protect the family nest. But now they also use a bit of wickedness to contend with insecure husbands who punish their wives for surpassing them, self-absorbed adult children who can't see beyond their own muddled lives, and the culture's communal hand wringing over sexual identity.

Throughout the book there is a sense that apocalyptic winds are gathering force all over Weldon's England: shadowy "market forces" are leveling picturesque villages to build "development complexes" infested with social dry rot; woolly New Age shrinks and astrologers are subverting the national discourse; rumors are swirling about a potion called Red Mercury that has shadowy origins in the Russian Mafia and the potential to polish off the world.

Weldon is a worthy adversary for these post-modern devils. Delivering a knockout blow to those old punching bags, touchy-feely therapists, she blames them for the casual shattering of marriages and for the delusive idea that family loyalties and relationships can be paved over or efficiently rerouted like England's M1 highway. In "Santa Claus's New Clothes," the children and the grandchildren have their first Christmas dinner with Dr. Hetty Grainger, their father's former therapist and new wife, who "murmured rather than spoke." Hetty hadn't thought twice about

taking over Mum's house; she paused only in the master bedroom to "perform some kind of ceremony with candles and incense which would, she said, deconsecrate the bed" and "free the material object from its person-past." Her mistake is to object to the dinner about the "civilized" way the dinner over dinner about the "civilized" way the divorce and remarriage have proceeded. The divorcee's remark elicits from her new nine-year-old stepson the fatal question, "What's civilized?" Hetty's fatuous answer opens up a hilariously deadpan inquisition by the other children that peels away her soothing earth-mother disguise to reveal the baby-eater underneath.

In the riotous and startlingly timely "Not Even a Blood Relation," Weldon draws on some frisky revisionist science to help her protagonist defend her and home. Beverley Cowarth, 61, is the widow of Hughie, a recently deceased and bankrupt earl, and the mother of three angry adult daughters. And no wonder: the oldest, Edwina, was meant to be Edwina, the Cowarth male heir, and when she arrived, her parents "just added on an 'a' and ignored her thereafter" — as they did with her sisters, Thomasina and Davida. Now the three plan to sell the ancestral home out from under their mother, who, in terms of the Cowarth family line, is "not even a blood relation" — and far too old to produce a male heir, even if Hughie were still alive. But by enlisting the help of a much younger, adoring Australian fiancé and the services of a very good Roman gynecologist, Beverley outwits them all — making for a few delectable twists best left for Weldon fans to gloat over.

Other stories end in devastation, lost humanity and profound sadness. The graceful "In The Green War (II)" tells of a careless love triangle that exacts the suicide of two women and the death of a six-year-old child. "Web Central," one of the few heavy-handed stories here, takes on the terrors of futuristic isolation.

It pictures a society whose privileged classes are sealed in solitary rooms, their moods regulated by drip feeds and their intercourse with the world conducted entirely on computer screens. And the powerful "Heat Haze" annihilates the idea that a child's agony over her parents' messy life can be managed and explained away like a nasty case of flu, with no one taking any blame. Deciding that someone must pay for the fallout from her father's admission of homosexuality and her mother's subsequent death, a young ballet dancer offers herself up — refusing food and intimacy, and bartering her body — to protect the remnants of family she has left.

With the year 2000 and its tidy string of zeroes reawakening our eternal longing for conclusive endings, Weldon's wrap-ups are eloquent and absolute. They are born of her belief in the dogged persistence of genetic bonds and in an uncompromising universe of clear rights and wrongs with their own inevitable consequences. With *Wicked Women*, Weldon has become one of the most cunning moral satirists of our time. In her rueful stories, justice is done — whether we like it or not.

(New York Times)

## STEIMATZKY'S BESTSELLING PAPERBACKS

1. *Icon* by Frederick Forsyth. Bantam, Corgi.
2. *English Patient* by Michael Ondaatje. Vintage, Picador.
3. *Burning Man* by Phillip Margolin. Bantam.
4. *Clinic* by Jonathan Kellerman. Warner, Bantam.
5. *Cauldron* by Colin Forbes. Pan.
6. *Sotah* by Naomi Ragen. Harper.
7. *Deep End of the Ocean* by Jacquelyn Mitchard. Signet.
8. *Airframe* by Michael Crichton. Arrow, Ballantine.
9. *Next of Kin* by Joanna Trollope. Black Swan.
10. *Executive Orders* by Tom Clancy. Harper Collins, Berkley.

## BESTSELLERS

## BOOK BYTES

President Bill Clinton is personally coming to grips with a sad statistic: 40 percent of American eight-year-olds cannot read without help. Clinton's response is "to build a citizen army of one million volunteer tutors to make sure every child can read independently by the end of the third grade." The backbone of his proposed initiative, "thousands of Americorps volunteers" and "at least 100,000 college students," will help and guide schools, libraries and bookstores to foster reading at a young age.

And shadowing her husband's efforts, Hillary Clinton announced her own national campaign, which includes programs like "Reach Out and Read," in part founded to provide pediatricians with books to distribute to new parents at the birth of their babies. The Clintons also hosted a White House conference on early learning and the brain in order to publicize new research findings on fetal and early childhood development. Recent studies by US neurobiologists and other scientists have shown "the fascinatingly complex activity of a baby's brain cells and indicate that stimulation such as talking and reading to a child — especially from birth to age three — markedly improves a baby's brain functionality."

HIGHLY acclaimed novelist Rose Tremain's latest offering is a change of pace from some of her historical fictions. *The Way I Found Her* (Sinclair-Stevenson) is the sweet-and-sour tale of 13-year-old Louis, a boy who goes to Paris, where he meets Valentina, a mysterious Russian woman of 41. Tremain, together with her partner, biographer Richard Holmes (her two marriages ended in divorce), spent four months in Paris to absorb the atmosphere. Her research included visits to a Russian Orthodox Church, hospitals and police stations.

The Louis character, on the other hand, is a product of pure invention. "This novel is more worked over than any I've written. I had to go through every scene, asking myself, 'How old does he seem here?' 'Is he too knowing?' 'Are the concepts he talks about too sophisticated?'" When Tremain summarized her book for Salman Rushdie, his comment was: "Well, the reader is going to be asking only one question." The answer to Rushdie's curious observation comes at a crisis point two-thirds the way through the novel. "I agonized about it," Tremain says. "The main thing is that what happens has to be emotionally right."

RUSSIAN POET, novelist and singer Bulat Okudzhava died in Paris in June at age 73. The well-known dissident filled stadiums with fans in the '60s and '70s. Okudzhava was poetry editor of the Moscow *Literary Gazette* from 1956 to 1964, and in 1994 he won the Russian equivalent of the Booker Prize. Throughout his life, the half-Georgian, half-Armenian Russian rolled with the tide. Surviving the Stalinist purges as a teacher, he sang his way through the Khrushchev era, and in recent years took a place on President Boris Yeltsin's council on culture and art.

GINA KOLATA, *The New York Times* reporter who scooped the story of the first successful cloning of a sheep in Scotland, will be fleshing out the controversial issues arising from the experiment in a book due out in 1998. Paying tribute to Broadway, Kolata is thinking of titling her book "Hello Dolly: The Story of a Clone."

David Brauner

- ### HARDCOVER Fiction
1. *Special Delivery* by Danielle Steel. (Delacorte \$16.95). Romance comes to a mature couple.
  2. *Plum Island* by Nelson DeMille. (Warner \$25). A detective probes the murder of a Long Island couple who may have been involved in germ warfare research.
  3. *Fat Tuesday* by Sandra Brown. (Warner \$24). A cop turned outlaw and the wife of a sinister attorney go on a tear in New Orleans during Mardi Gras.
  4. *Up Island* by Anne Rivers Siddons. (HarperCollins \$24). An Atlanta woman, after a bad marriage and her mother's death, seeks a new life.
  5. *The Partner* by John Grisham. (Doubleday \$26.95). The search for \$90 million stolen by a Mississippi lawyer, believed dead, who is hiding in Brazil.
  6. *Power of a Woman* by Barbara Taylor Bradford. (HarperCollins \$25). A businesswoman struggles with her past after her daughter is the victim of violence.
  7. *Cold Mountain* by Charles Frazier. (Atlantic Monthly \$24). A wounded Confederate soldier journeys home toward the end of the Civil War to meet an old love and a new world.
  8. *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. (Warner \$16.95). A World War II veteran meets an old flame who is about to be married.
  9. *London* by Edward Rutherfurd. (Crown \$25.95). Two thousand years of life in Britain's capital as seen through the eyes of six families.
  10. *Chasing Cezanne* by Peter Mayle. (Knopf \$23). A photographer pursues a painting taken from a house in the south of France.

- ### HARDCOVER Non-fiction
1. *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt. (Scribner \$24). An Irish-American recalls his childhood amid the miseries of Limerick.
  2. *Into Thin Air* by Jon Krakauer. (Villard \$24.95). A journalist's account of his ascent of Mount Everest in 1996, the deadliest season in history.
  3. *The Perfect Storm* by Sebastian Junger. (Norton \$23.95). An account of the nor'easter of 1991, focusing on a crew of fishermen from Gloucester, Mass.
  4. *The Bible Code* by Michael Drosnin. (Simon & Schuster \$25). A journalist contends that important events have been predicted in the Bible.
  5. *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil* by John Berendt. (Random House \$23). The mysterious death of a young man in Savannah, Ga.
  6. *Brain Droppings* by George Carlin. (Hyperion \$19.95). Comments on life and the ways of the world by the stand-up comedian.
  7. *The Gift of Fear* by Gavin de Becker. (Little, Brown \$22.95). Intuitive signals that can protect us from becoming the victims of violence.
  8. *Conversations with God: Book 1* by Neale Donald Walsch. (Putnam \$19.95). The author addresses questions of life and love, good and evil, guilt and sin.
  9. *The Millionaire Next Door* by Thomas J. Stanley and William D. Danko. (Longstreet \$22). An analysis of the lives of wealthy Americans discloses that they have seven characteristics in common.
  10. *Martha Stewart — Just Deserts* by Jerry Oppenheimer. (Morrow \$24). A biography of "the doyenne of domesticity."

- ### PAPERBACK Fiction
1. *Desperation* by Stephen King. (Signet \$7.99). Visitors to a small mining town in Nevada encounter terrifying forces.
  2. *The Clayborne Brides*: Paris 1-2 by Julie Garwood. (Pocket \$2.99 each). "One Pink Rose" and "One White Rose" relate the 19th-century romantic adventures of three Montana brides.
  3. *Songs in Ordinary Time* by Mary McGarry Morin. (Penguin \$13.95). A divorced woman and her three children, summering in Vermont in 1960, are menaced by a con man.
  4. *The Deep End of the Ocean* by Jacquelyn Mitchard. (Signet \$7.50). The disappearance of a three-year-old brings a family anguish and redemption.
  5. *The Third Twin* by Ken Follet. (Fawcett \$7.99). A genetic researcher's work brings frightening experiences and romance.
  6. *Demon Seed* by Dean Koontz. (Berkley \$7.50). Obsessive desire for complete privacy is threatened by the ultimate computer.
  7. *Finding the Dream* by Nora Roberts. (Jove \$6.99). A young divorced woman, emotionally and financially devastated, sets out to rebuild her life.
  8. *Contact* by Carl Sagan. (Pocket \$6.99). The connection that follows the reception of a signal from intelligent life beyond Earth.
  9. *Exclusive* by Sandra Brown. (Warner Vision \$7.50). Should a television reporter broadcast the secrets confided to her by the first lady?
  10. *The Fourth Estate* by Jeffrey Archer. (Temper Paperbacks \$7.50). An Australian and a refugee from Nazism vie to become the world's most powerful press lord.

- ### PAPERBACK Non-fiction
1. *The Heart of a Woman* by Maya Angelou. (Bantam \$12). Volume 4 of the poet's autobiography.
  2. *Into the Wild* by Jon Krakauer. (Anchor/Doubleday \$12.95). The story of a young man whose obsession with the wilderness had a tragic end in Alaska.
  3. *The Color of Water* by James McBride. (Riverhead \$12). A black writer and musician recalls his experiences growing up with his white mother in a Brooklyn housing project.
  4. *Undaunted Courage* by Stephen E. Ambrose. (Touchstone/S&S \$16). The story of how Thomas Jefferson sponsored Lewis and Clark.
  5. *Emotional Intelligence* by Daniel Coleman. (Bantam \$13.95). Factors other than IQ that contribute to a successful and happy life.
  6. *A Civil Action* by Jonathan Harr. (Vintage \$13). Homeholders sue industrial polluters.
  7. *Girlfriends* by Carmen Renee Berry and Tamara Traeder. (Wildcat Canyon \$12.95). The ties that bind women of all ages and all kinds.
  8. *Reviving Ophelia* by Mary Pipher. (Ballantine \$12.50). The everyday dangers that beset teenage girls.
  9. *Spontaneous Healing* by Andrew Weil. (Fawcett \$12.95). How the body heals itself.
  10. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou. (Bantam \$4.99). The poet's depiction of her childhood and adolescence.

- ### PAPERBACK Miscellaneous
1. *Don't Sweat the Small Stuff ... and It's All Small Stuff* by Richard Carlson. (Hyperion \$8.95). How to enjoy life much more and contribute to the world we live in.
  2. *Chicken Soup for the Teenage Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen and Kimberly Kirberger. (Health Communications \$12.95). Inspiration.
  3. *Chicken Soup for the Woman's Soul* compiled by Jack Canfield, Mark Victor Hansen, Jennifer Read Hawthorne, and Marc Shimoff. (Health Communications \$12.95). Inspiration.
  4. *Dr. Atkins' New Diet Revolution* by Robert C. Atkins. (Avon \$6.50). Ways to lose weight and achieve a healthy body.
- ### HARDCOVER Miscellaneous
1. *Simple Abundance* by Sarah Ban Breathnach. (Warner \$17.95). Advice for women seeking to improve themselves.
  2. *Eight Weeks to Optimum Health* by Andrew Weil. (Knopf \$23). A physician's diet, exercise and psychological program.
  3. *Mars and Venus on a Date* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25). Steps to take to achieve a lasting, loving relationship.
  4. *Men are from Mars, Women are from Venus* by John Gray. (HarperCollins \$25). Improving communication and relationships.

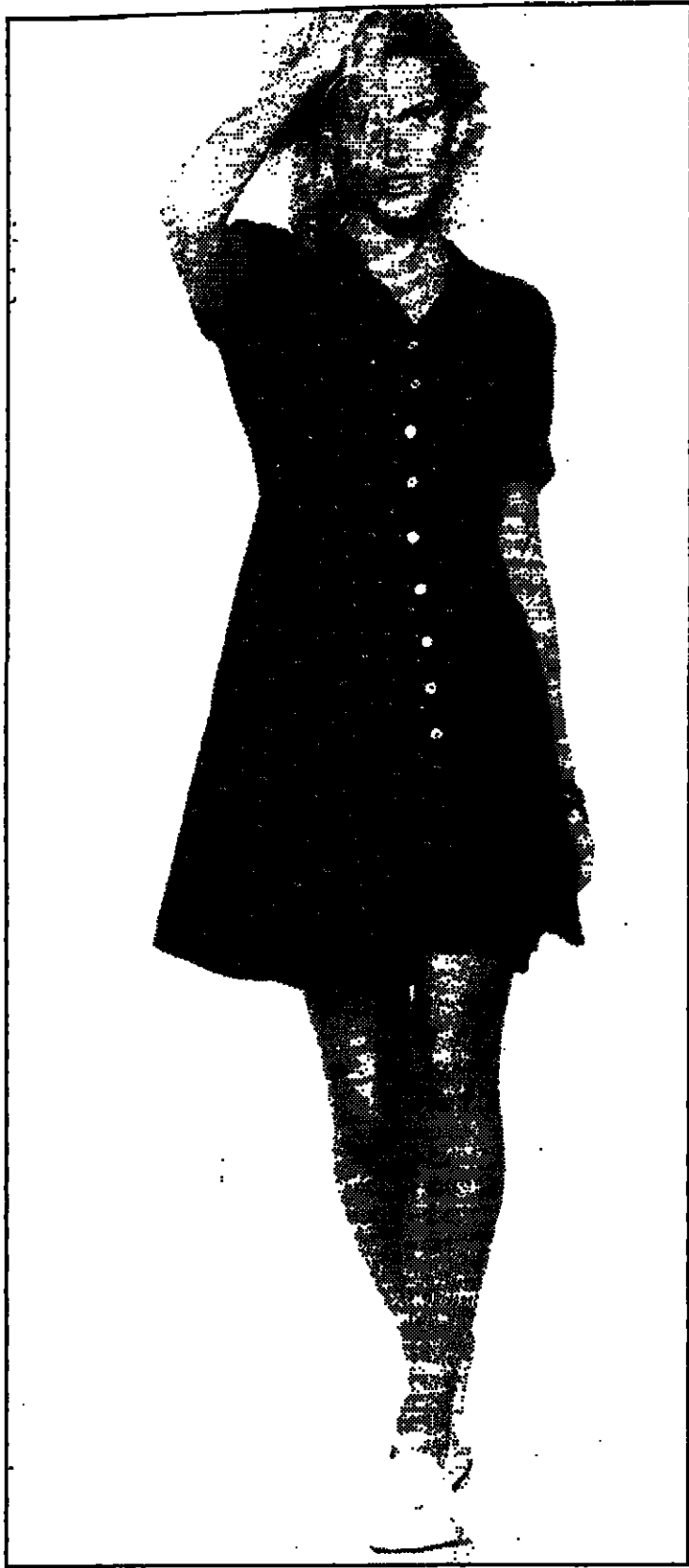
حکامان الدول







FLAIR



With summer sales, you can find local fashion garments for under NIS 300, but foreign makes can still cost over NIS 5000 each. Left: A loose mini-dress from Niba's summer collection. Right: Long lapel waistcoat with Caribbean print wrap-skirt by Betty Barclay.

# Designer labels not always worth the price

By GREER FAY CASHMAN

It hasn't been a very good year for the garment industry. Part of the problem has been that it's become increasingly easy to get cheap knock-offs of designer clothing. Another is the lack of originality, most evident in department stores where almost identical dresses are available under a dozen different labels. And a third, and perhaps more important reason, is that Israelis have developed a degree of consumer awareness. When designer labels were still scarce here, socialites and would-be socialites bought up any famous maker, just to be able to boast that they owned a Dior or a Louis Ferrand. But the novelty value of such purchases has subsided. People are now more cautious about spending

their money, and if they do buy snob-value imports, they want to be sure that they're also getting value for their money. An international designer label does not necessarily mean that the garment is well-cut or well-made. Like almost everyone else in the apparel business, prestige companies look for cheap labor to help cut production costs and boost profits. The end result is not always flattering to either the companies or to potential buyers. Sometimes a less-expensive, look-alike garment proves to be a better product. Consumers have learned to turn the clothes inside out before they buy to check whether the seams are overlocked, whether linings are sewn in properly, whether gussets are in place, and so on. These precautions are worth remembering

even at sale times, because a bad buy is a bad buy no matter how little it costs. Although the sales have been going on for a while, now is the time to start shopping in earnest, because some manufacturers and importers are already showing their fall/winter collections, which means that summer merchandise has to move to make way for new stocks. Some stores are offering discounts of up to 70%, though mark-downs in general average somewhere between 30% to 50%. If you're buying locally produced fashions, chances are that you'll do very well with an outlay of NIS 300 or less. But don't expect to spend anything like that on major foreign makes, which still cost up to NIS 5,000—even on sale.

# A working obsession

By SHERWOOD ROSS

US experts say too much work can be good for you. If you're one of those people who feels guilty or ashamed for loving those long hours you put in at your job, rejoice. A fresh look at workaholism by a team of management experts reveals that it can take very different forms — not all of them hazardous to your health. Some forms of workaholism may actually be beneficial, when practiced by individuals who put in those extra hours because "they enjoy their jobs, have strong career identities and a desire for upward mobility," said Marcia Miceli, a management professor at Ohio State University's Max Fisher College of Business. "Achievement-oriented workaholics in particular apparently don't work to overcome some personal deficit, because they actually thrive on hard work," Miceli explained. Miceli and colleagues Keirsten Moore, assistant management professor at Capital University in Columbus, Ohio, and Kim Scott, a human resources consultant with Hewitt Associates in Chicago, believe a lot more study of the subject is needed. "We'd rather see a more balanced, scientific approach taken with people measured according to their workaholic tendencies and see if they actually are productive or nonproductive at work," Miceli said, after her team evaluated scores of articles and books on the subject. "People are always told to find a

'balance' between work and non-work roles, but that may not be healthy for everyone," Miceli said. "It may be more beneficial to help achievement-oriented workaholics find ways to spend time doing what they enjoy — working."

**People are always told to find a "balance" between work and non-work roles, but that may not be healthy for everyone.**

"Some clinicians see workaholism as a very negative thing, a sickness akin to alcoholism," she said. By contrast, the researchers found "there can be happy and productive workaholics" whose work-style "could be very positive." Workaholics, Miceli said, can be identified by their willingness to give up important family, social and recreational activities because of work. They work beyond what is reasonably expected to meet their job requirements or economic needs. They frequently and persistently

think of work, even when they're not working. Miceli and her colleagues have identified three basic types of workaholics: The "compulsive-dependents" who "recognize that their work is excessive but are unable to reduce or control it," and "feel anxious and upset when they aren't working." The "perfectionist ... who has a strong need for control and works long hours because he or she wants to have control over the job." This person "can get upset if things don't go according to plan" but "they can be productive and satisfied also." "It's possible," Miceli continued, "such a person may be highly productive at work and the organization thinks he or she is terrific, yet personally the individual is very unhappy because of giving up so much time to please the organization." The achievement-oriented person "who has the potential to be very satisfied and very productive ... if the workplace is committed to excellence and rewards achievement-striving." This last type, Miceli said, "may have very low needs for family and recreation activities" and if their family is not supportive, "there could be a bad situation" in the home. "And it's important, Miceli added, to distinguish "between the person who has the personal disposition to be a workaholic compared with the individual who finds work being dumped on him or her. That's not a workaholic. That's a person responding to a real environmental pressure." (Reuters)

## CAVEAT EMPTOR!

# Costly cuts: How much money can a mohel charge?

By RUTHIE BLUM

Any consumer who has a baby son in this country quickly discovers that it is no easy feat to get a straight answer about how much to pay the mohel who performs the baby's circumcision. Even word of mouth seems to be problematic because almost everyone has embarrassing anecdotes to recount about being told by a mohel that he cannot disclose his fee, due to his service being a mitzva, and then being reprimanded by that same mohel when his palm is crossed with an amount which he considers too low. Such was the case with one young couple, who had decided to research the matter well in advance of the event. This they did while attending the *brit mila* of a friend's son a few weeks before their child was born. Since the circumcision they were attending was performed by the mohel whom they intended to use if their baby turned out to be a boy, they decided to take the opportunity of asking the mohel's wife how much the standard fee was. She told them that it was between NIS 800 and NIS 1,000.

When it came time for the *brit mila* of their own son, they indeed hired the mohel whom they had seen a few weeks earlier. But, being in a state of nervous excitement customary for new parents, the father of the baby asked his brother-in-law to take care of paying the mohel for him. When he handed his brother-in-law NIS 800, however, his brother-in-law blanched. "What?" he asked, in amazement. "This much? It couldn't be! I saw a memo on the wall of a hospital recently which said that a mohel's fee is NIS 500 and that of an 'expert mohel' is around NIS 700." Not in the mood to argue, the father of the baby told his brother-in-law to pay the money and be done with it. When he did, however, the mohel was displeased. "My fee is at least NIS 1,200," he said, but he "was willing" to lower it to NIS 1,150.

The couple in question paid the man what he demanded but appealed to me to investigate whether there is a way to avoid similar travesties in the future. They also wish to know what the definition of an "expert mohel" is. Dr. Eli Schussheim, chairman of the Interministerial Committee on Circumcisions (which includes representatives from the Chief Rabbinate, the Ministry of Health, and the Religious Affairs Ministry), responded as follows: "In principle, circumcising is a free-market profession. Thus there is no room for



limiting the circumcisor's fee, when it has been agreed upon in advance between the service-provider [the mohel] and the client. But the mohel must state his fee at the time he is hired. He can also inform the parents of the fee recommended by the Circumcision Supervisory Board, which is currently NIS 500 for a licensed mohel and NIS 720 for an expert mohel. (The last time this fee was updated was in March 1996.) This fee includes transportation costs and VAT. A mohel who did not set a price for his services prior to the *brit mila* must be satisfied with any amount he receives after performing the ceremony, even if the sum he receives is lower than the recommended fee."

People who cannot afford to pay a mohel need not despair. The Circumcision Committee requests that all licensed mohelim perform circumcisions for needy families at no cost. Most mohelim, according to Dr. Schussheim, respond positively to this request. Regarding the distinction made between a licensed mohel and an expert, Dr. Schussheim explained: "In 1983, the Circumcision Supervisory Board resolved to create the title of 'expert' mohel to pro-

mote the profession in general and to raise the standing of the more experienced mohelim in particular. It also wanted to create a group of elite among the experienced mohelim who would be licensed to teach the profession to students." Requirements for being an "expert" mohel are as follows: (1) experience of at least 10 years after receiving a license to perform circumcisions from the Circumcision Supervisory Board; (2) the performing of at least 100 circumcisions per year; (3) an affidavit from the candidate that circumcision is his main livelihood; (4) a recommendation from the local rabbi. According to Dr. Schussheim, the candidates who met these requirements underwent high-level written and oral examinations. As of today, he stated, there are only eight mohelim in Israel who hold this title. Dr. Schussheim happily points out that since issuing regulations regarding fees for circumcisions, the number of complaints against mohelim has been reduced dramatically. You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem.

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think of work, even when they're not working. Mizeli and her colleagues have identified three basic types of workaholics: The "compulsive-dependent" who "recognize that their work is obsessive but are unable to make any control in it," and "feel anxious and angry when they aren't working and... The "perfectionist" who has a "strong need for control and who... have control over the job... person can get upset if things don't go according to plan" but they are "satisfied and satisfied with... person may be highly motivated... Mizeli's comment... she is terrific, yet... the individual is very... because of giving up to... "The achievement-oriented person who has the potential to be very satisfied and very productive... of the workplace is completely... and rewards... Mizeli said, "We have very low needs for... and... is not... there could be a bad... important. Mizeli added... between the... personal... compared with... who... or... That's a... real environment..."

much money large?

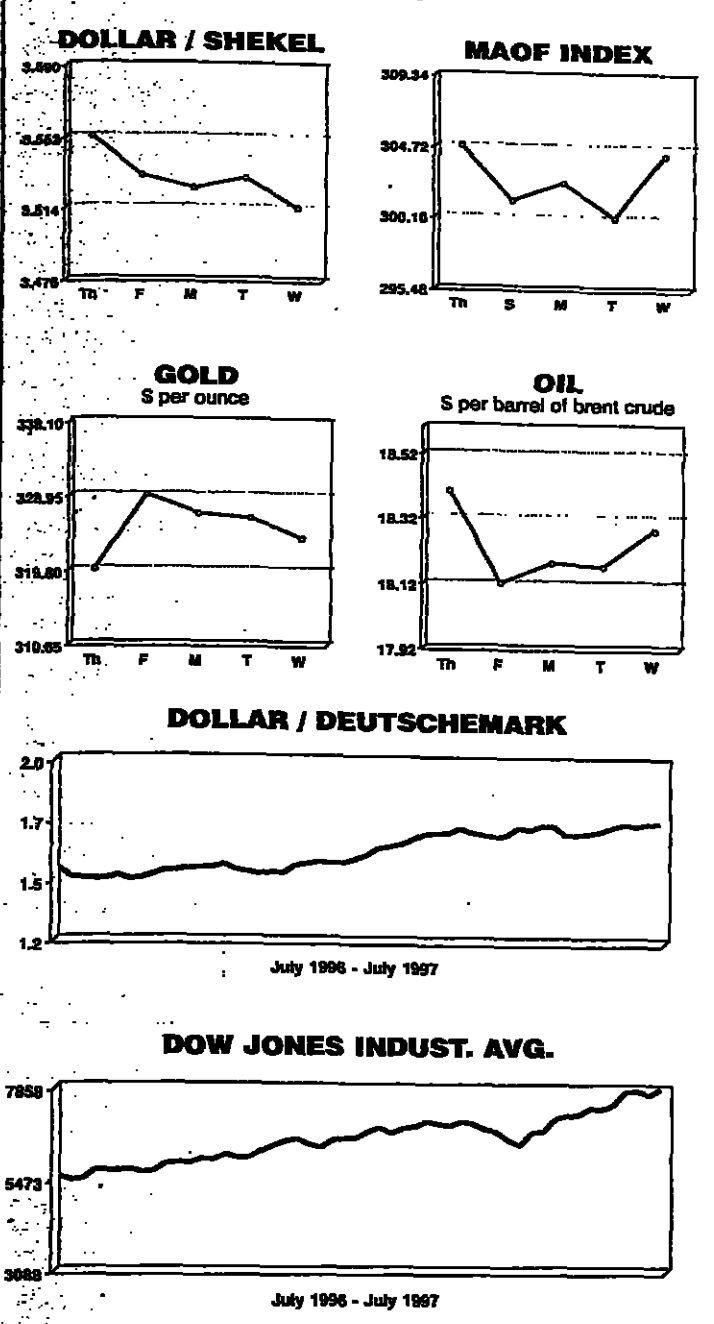


Thursday, July 24, 1997

# BUSINESS & FINANCE

## MARKETS

in brief



## Kolber: We won't break up Koor

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Claridge Israel, which purchased a 10 percent stake in Koor Industries Ltd. from Shamrock Holdings on Tuesday, will not break up Israel's largest industrial concern, Jonathan Kolber, CEO of Claridge Israel, said yesterday.

"We may be more aggressive than Koor previously was in terms of conducting mergers and acquisitions within the company's subsidiaries, but we won't break it up for the sake of cashing out," he said, refusing to expand on his plans.

Stanley Gold, the chairman of Koor and the CEO of Shamrock Holdings, previously

expressed his interest in breaking up the company as a way of increasing its value.

Claridge, which for the next 90 days has the right to buy Shamrock's remaining 10% stake in Koor, currently is conducting due diligence studies to determine whether or not to exercise this option.

"We have to look at all the company's businesses and determine what's good, what's less good, and if we want to own 20% or more of the company," Kolber said.

Should Claridge decide that it wants a bigger chunk of Koor than it can obtain from Shamrock, Kolber said he would consider buying shares from the market or Bank Hapoalim or creating new shares

through a private placement. Bank Hapoalim, which has a 26% stake in the company, may have to unload part of its holding following the government's sale of the bank.

Kolber said that he could not yet comment on the specifics of Koor's holdings and has "no idea" about the planned initial public offering of communications giant Telrad or the future of Koor's stake in cement company Neshet.

According to Tal Liani, an analyst at Zannex Securities, Morgan Stanley is conducting negotiations with undisclosed companies for the sale of 20% of Koor's stake in Neshet.

Meanwhile, Kolber denied reports that ran in several Israeli newspapers yesterday claiming that he would replace Benjamin Gaon as Koor CEO, and Charles Bronfman, chairman of Claridge, would take Gold's position as chairman of Koor.

"Benjamin Gaon is staying; he is part of the team," said Kolber, adding that discussions regarding the senior management have not occurred.

"We looked at Koor as an investment and its still too premature to make decisions about the chairmanship," he said.

Koor's NYSE-traded shares fell by 2% to \$21.75 in early morning trading yesterday.



**Reuters share buyback**  
Reuters Chief Executive Peter Job speaks about new products shortly before the announcement of the company's planned stock repurchase yesterday. The news and information company said it would buy back shares worth £200 million (NIS 1.1 billion) over the next 12 months. (Reuters)

### Merhav, Hapoalim in Turkmeni gas deal

Herzliya-based Merhav succeeded in arranging financing for a \$180 million gas booster station on behalf of the government of Turkmenistan, Bank Hapoalim said yesterday. Hapoalim will be a leader in the consortium, which is headed by Holland's largest bank, ABN-AMRO. Hapoalim will lend the project up to \$40m. with the backing of the Israel Foreign Trade Risks Insurance Corp. Chief contractor for the three-year project is Israel's Bateman Engineering, with the equipment being supplied by US, Israeli and Czech companies.

David Harris

### King David unveils rooms in \$20m. upgrade

The King David Hotel unveiled its new rooms, the product of renovations begun in September 1995 and due to be completed within six months at a total cost of \$20 million, said Ami Hirschstein, president of Dan Hotels, which owns the hotel. All rooms have at least four telephones. The royal suite, which rents for \$1,980 a night for two, has a bedroom, sitting room and conference room, two bathrooms, one with a Jacuzzi, and bulletproof glass windows. Ordinary rooms are between \$300 and \$500 a night. For Israelis, the hotel has a special rate of NIS 888.

Haim Shapiro

## Ravitz: Knesset might block additional NIS 800m. budget cut

By DAVID HARRIS

The additional NIS 800 million cut to this year's budget, approved by the cabinet early yesterday, could well be rejected by the Knesset Finance Committee, committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (United Torah Judaism) said yesterday.

Education Minister Zevulun Hammer (NRP) and Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai (Shas) have both indicated they want their MKs on the committee to vote against the cut, because of its likely effect on education and welfare funding.

With the opposition voting unanimously against the proposals, Ravitz believes it will be very difficult for the coalition to approve the measures.

Asked about Hammer's threat to oppose the proposed cuts in the education budget in the committee, opposition faction leader on the committee Avraham Shohat (Labor) told Israel Radio that the threat is real.

"He wasn't just talking. The matter must be passed by the Knesset Finance Committee, where there are 10 coalition votes, and seven for the opposition. So it's enough if just two of the coalition members don't vote for the cuts. And I think the education minister knows about this mathematical situation, and I more than assume that he checked on it, and I don't want to say more than that."

The government was mistaken in passing the budget cut now, said Shohat. It should rather have waited until the discussion of the 1998 budget takes place over the next fortnight. Zvi Hendel (NRP) went one stage further, saying that the

government should wait until the start of 1998 to introduce a joint cut for this year and next. He also indicated he intends voting against cuts in the education budget.

"I think we have a sufficient majority in the committee not to pass the education cut," said Hendel.

Ravitz is scheduled to meet Ne'eman today to discuss the budget cut's passage through the committee. During the meeting Ravitz said, he will stress that there is currently "no economic leadership." Ravitz, however, does not plan to vote against the government in the committee.

"There must be dialogue with all the parties in the coalition," said Ravitz. "The government mustn't just rely on papers, letters and agreements with Geshet or anyone else - there is absolutely no value to these things. This is the first lesson we're going to teach them here about the budget in general."

Ravitz added that he realizes that Ne'eman has only been in his post for two weeks and so he wants to see if the new minister will change the rules of the game. With regard to the cut itself,

Ravitz said his party is prepared to accept it in full as long as all streams in society are equally affected.

Following the cabinet debate on the combined NIS 600m. cut to reduce the budget deficit and NIS 200m. to fund aid transfers to Jordan and the supply of new gas masks, four ministers voted against the proposals: Hammer, Yishai, Health Minister Yehoshua Matza and Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy. Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai boycotted the meeting.

Those voting against the cut did so despite a compromise agreement over the size of cuts to three ministries. Initially, Finance Minister Ya'acov Ne'eman and Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu proposed an across-the-board 0.9 percent cut, other than in Defense and Education, which would have been cut 0.6%, to achieve the NIS 600m. By the end of the four-and-a-half-hour debate there was agreement to keep the Defense cut at 0.6%, reduce the Education, Health and Labor and Social Affairs cuts to 0.4% and increase the cuts to the

remaining ministries to 1.1%. The additional NIS 200m. will be levied at an equal 0.26% from all the ministries.

"I was neither prepared nor able to cut even one agora," said Matza. "I am claiming an additional NIS 1.3 billion for 1998."

Hammer, meanwhile, told *The Jerusalem Post* that he will maintain the same tough stance on his 1998 budget.

"There are many alternatives and we must make it a rule that we will not harm education," he said. "We've done that enough."

Ne'eman called the 1997 budget a "guide" for next year's public expenditure program.

"We will continue along the same path all the way," he said. "At the moment we are not talking about any tax hikes at all."

However, he did not deny there could be proposals to increase taxes at a later stage. Referring to Netanyahu's ill-fated "read my lips" promise last year not to raise taxes, Ne'eman said: "I have no lips and I cannot say 'read my lips'."

Arveh Dean Cohen contributed to this report.

## Gov't raises \$170m. in Japan bond issue

By DAVID HARRIS and JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Israel raised 20 billion Japanese yen (\$170 million) in a bond flotation yesterday in its first entry into the Samurai market, the Treasury reported.

Accountant General Shai Talmon, in Tokyo to oversee the sale, said the money was raised at the lowest interest rate of any State of Israel foreign bond flotation to date.

It is reported from Japan that Israel will have to pay off the 10-year bonds at 3 percent interest.

This is explained in part at least by the relatively low interest rates in Japan in general, analysts indicated yesterday.

That said, the sale was welcomed as a good sign of Israel's growing reputation on the international money markets.

"If it did well it's a good sign for the Israeli government and economy," said Gad Hacker, head of the international department at investment bank Ilanot Banacha.

"It means other countries are willing to take an Israeli credit risk."

"This is the first time Israel has raised money in the Japanese market and it establishes a benchmark for getting into all the major fixed income markets, the Yankee in the US, the Euro in Europe, and the Samurai in Japan," a source close to the transaction said. "This is important because it prepares the infrastructure to replace the US guarantees which will expire next year."

According to one analyst, Israel did not receive special treatment from the Japanese markets.

"These Samurai sovereign bonds are very popular with Japanese investors," said the head of Triangle Technologies' Japan office Hidemi Suzuki.

Turkey, Mexico, Poland, and the Czech Republic all have taken advantage of the market recently.

The money was raised with the knowledge that the government is determined to meet its economic targets, said a statement from the Treasury.

Prior to the flotation, Talmon presented an overview of the Israeli economy to more than 80 Japanese investors.

Some 20 Japanese investment banks were involved in the flotation, for which the lead underwriter was Daiwa Securities Co.

Initially, the intention was to float 15% yen of bonds, but given the surplus demand, Talmon extended the sale to \$200.

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Redemption Price: 116.09	Redemption Price: 128.74
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## World Bank earmarks \$10m. for Gaza industrial park

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN and DAVID HARRIS

The World Bank is ready to transfer \$10 million to the Karni industrial park as soon as Israel and the Palestinian Authority arrive at a final security arrangement, James Wolfensohn, president of the bank, yesterday told Minister of Industry and Trade Natan Sharansky.

Currently, the two sides are trying to resolve security issues, such as where security checks of goods going from Karni, which is located in the Gaza Strip, into Israel should take place.

"The whole idea behind Karni is that, even in the event of a closure, goods would be able to come into Israel even if people couldn't," said Eli Kazhdan, Sharansky's senior adviser.

At a meeting with donor nations in Gaza last month, Israel and the PA committed themselves to work as quickly as possible to establish the park at Karni.

However, disagreements continue to delay the process.

"A year ago we said that we wanted to see the first project operational within six months, so I don't want to offer any estimates," said Kazhdan, adding that the pace of negotiations has picked up over the last two months.

"There are a few concrete projects that we hope happen soon," he said.

Israel has set aside \$7.5 million for the Karni project, said Victor Harel, deputy director-general for economic affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

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Petah (foreign currency deposit rates) (11.9.96)

Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.750	5.000	5.375
British sterling (£100,000)	3.875	4.000	4.250
German mark (DM 200,000)	1.825	1.825	2.125
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	0.825	0.750	1.000
Yen (10 million yen)	-	-	-

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

**Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates\* (23.7.97)**

CURRENCY BASKET	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		BANKNOTES		Rep.
	Buy	Sell	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.7462	3.8087	3.80	3.7729	3.5140
German mark	3.4304	3.5487	3.43	3.4071	3.2071
British sterling	1.9063	1.9371	1.87	1.8207	1.6207
French franc	5.8675	5.9822	5.76	5.605	5.1111
Japanese yen (100)	3.0344	3.0732	2.97	2.92	2.6517
Dutch florin	1.6926	1.7198	1.66	1.625	1.4071
Swiss franc	2.3467	2.3846	2.30	2.242	2.0874
Norwegian krona	0.4448	0.4520	0.43	0.418	0.4484
Danish krona	0.4840	0.4912	0.46	0.446	0.4871
Finland mark	0.5008	0.5080	0.49	0.475	0.5045
Australian dollar	0.8474	0.8579	0.83	0.81	0.8530
S. African rand	2.5336	2.5745	2.49	2.42	2.5535
Belgian franc (10)	0.9238	0.9398	0.90	0.88	0.9301
Canadian dollar	2.7103	2.7541	2.66	2.60	2.7301
Italian lire (1000)	1.9818	1.9935	1.92	1.83	1.9780
Portuguese escudo (10)	4.9229	5.0024	4.86	4.71	5.0075
Egyptian pound	0.9904	1.0000	0.99	0.98	1.1089
ES\$	3.7779	3.8339	3.72	3.65	3.8078
Irish punt	5.1624	5.2358	5.06	5.31	5.1828
Spanish peseta (100)	2.2661	2.3027	2.22	2.34	2.2822

\*These rates vary according to bank. \*\*Bank of Israel. SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

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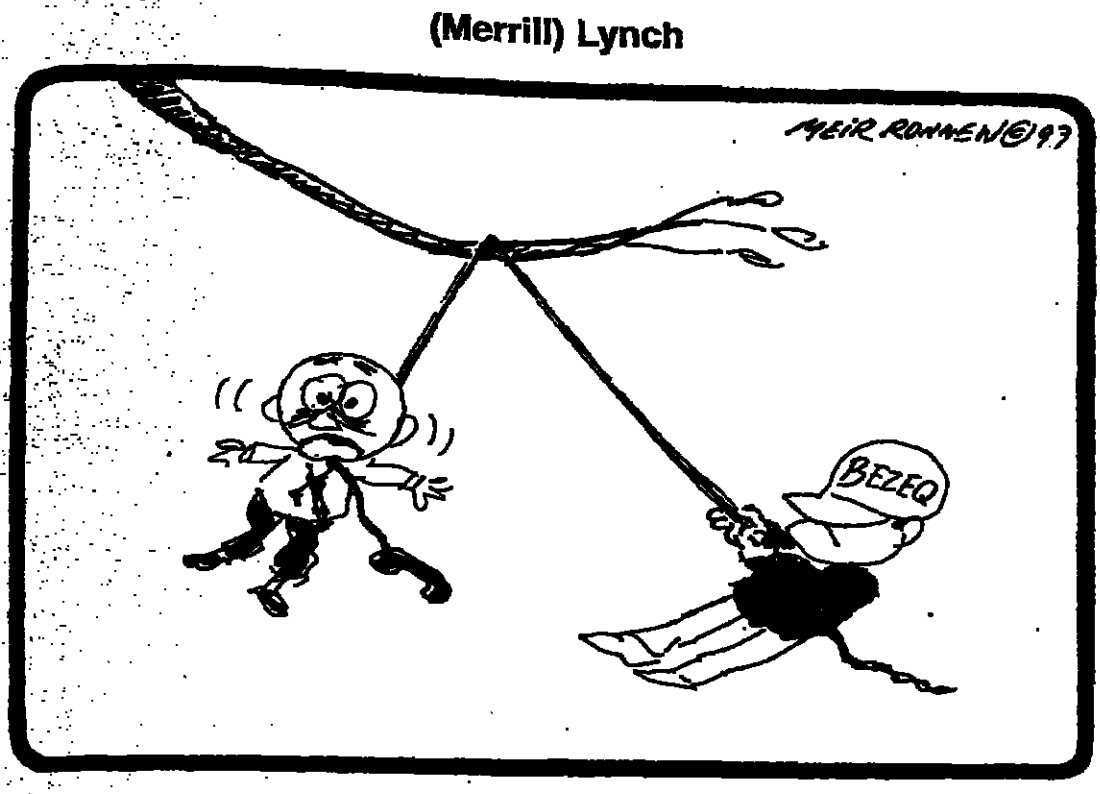
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BITS & BYTES WITH JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Israel and Korea establish joint R&D fund: A delegation from Korea's Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy and the Israeli government recently announced the establishment of a binational industrial research and development fund. Geared to promote technological cooperation between the two countries, both countries will contribute \$3 million to fund binational projects.

SMART SHOPPING

Disposable income

Eye-glass wearers everywhere are tossing aside their frames in favor of throwaway contact lenses

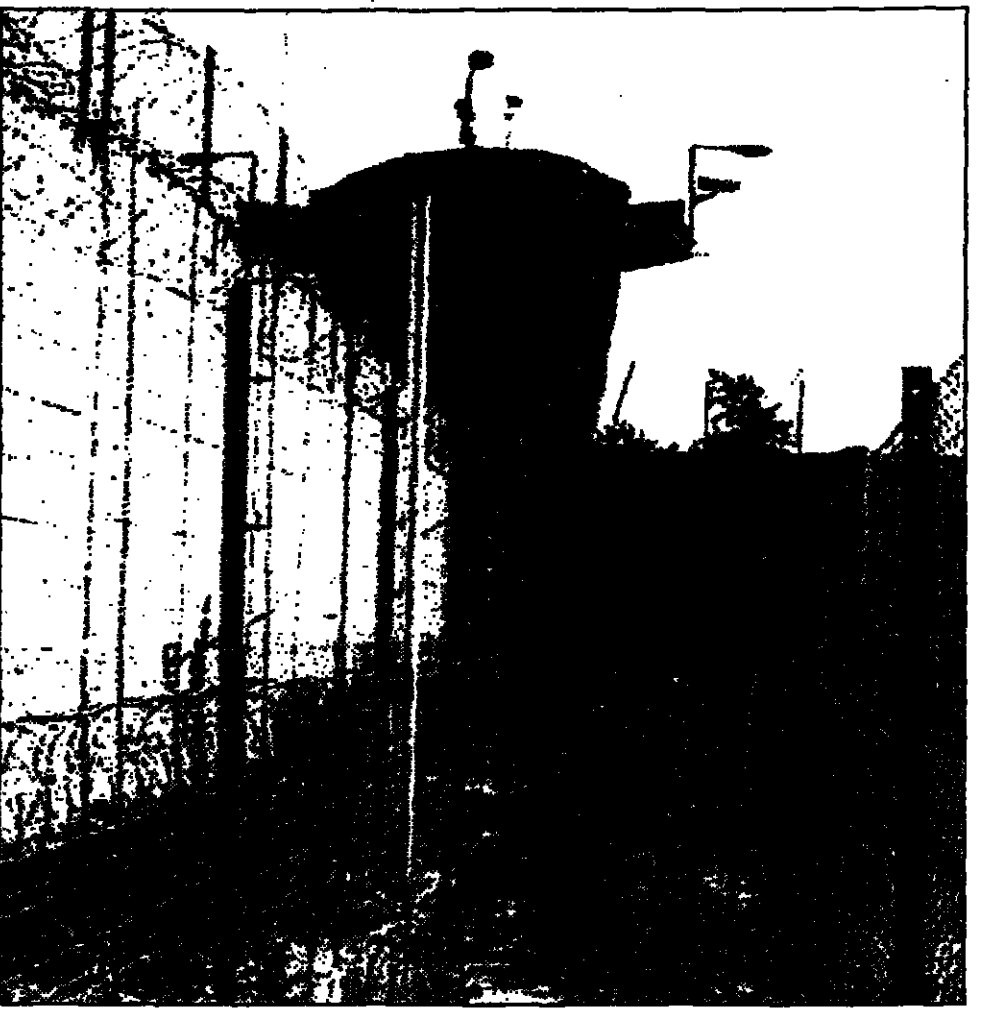
Forget about wearing sun-glasses; even at night. This summer, the really cool kids can be seen with decorative non-corrective Softex Crazy Contact Lenses, stamped with daisies, cats-eyes or smiley faces. It's probably not what Leonardo da Vinci had in mind in 1508 when he made the first recorded sketches of a contact lens, but that's how far things have come.

The other side of terrorism

Business is brisk for security-accessories developer Magal

By NICKY BLACKBURN

Following TWA flight 800's crash into the Atlantic last July, and the bombing at the Atlanta Olympics shortly afterward, shares in Yahud-based, Nasdaq-traded Magal Security Systems leapt dramatically from \$3 to \$12 in just three days.



Magal is not alone in the field, however. One of its biggest competitors is US company InVision, which has the only product credited by the Federal Aviation Administration.

AT THE MALL

A big name in fashion: Onot, a clothing store for larger-sized women - which in Israel means just about everyone size 12 and over - has announced its end of season sale, with discounts of up to 50 percent.

make their own food

With the money from the offering, Magal bought two more DB companies, Senstar Corp., in Canada, and Senstar GmbH, in Germany for a total of \$5.2m.

active ingredient

With the money from the offering, Magal bought two more DB companies, Senstar Corp., in Canada, and Senstar GmbH, in Germany for a total of \$5.2m.





MAN-OF-THE-MATCH - Australian bowler Justin Dery (4-16) in action yesterday.

(Sara Hersh)

# Australia take cricket gold

By MIKE ISAACSON

Australia's cricketers gave triumph in the face of adversity a new meaning yesterday, when they beat favorites South Africa by two wickets in a thrilling final in Ashdod.

Just nine days ago, the squad was on the bridge that collapsed in Ramat Gan, and many of the players are still carrying injuries sustained in the disaster. But it wasn't apparent yesterday. Their batting was a little below par, but they bowled and fielded like men possessed, to repeat their success of four years ago and to make it a hat-trick of gold, having also won in 1985.

The sides are making a habit of producing nail-biting finals. Each of the last two contests, in 1989 and 1993, have gone to the last over. This was no exception. Only five balls remained, when tailenders Daniel Kave and Dean Kino scampared the winning single.

The South Africans won the toss and elected to bat first, but their formidable top order - the first four batsmen all have Currie Cup experience - let them down badly. The experienced Terence Lazard, in his third Maccabiah, was adjudged leg before to only the third ball of the innings, and the Springboks never really recovered from that early setback.

Craig Lyons, Lazard's opening partner, decided that the best form of defense was attack - perhaps

unwisely in the circumstances - but after pulling a huge six (his second) over square leg, he had his off-stump uprooted trying to repeat the shot just two balls later. In the next over, the fifth, Mark Weinstein was caught fishing down the leg-side, and an early tea looked in store for all involved when Justin Dery captured his third wicket, having Gary Bloom bagged at second slip. At 29 for 4, in only the seventh over, there looked to be no way back for South Africa. These suspicious appeared to be confirmed when David Gelbart - running round the square leg boundary - took a quite astonishing diving catch to dismiss Warren Snee. 48 for 5.

But amid the chaos, Chad Grainger was playing a captain's innings. He brought up the 50 with a huge straight six off Kino, whose opening two overs went for 22 runs. Grainger and Andrew Kramer - who hit another six to carry the score into three figures - put on 62 crucial runs. The tables looked to be turning, but the Springboks' aggression was also their undoing.

In the 26th over, Rob Dery - determined, perhaps, not to be outstaged by his younger brother - had Kramer skying a catch to square leg, and just two balls later Grainger was caught on the long-off boundary going for the six that would have taken him to 50. He had made 46, 110 for 7. Kevin Joffe hit a quickfire 23, including three sixes, but a total of 143 all out (off 31.5 overs) never looked

enough. Justin Dery finished with figures of 4-16, and brother Rob with 3-17.

The Australian openers, Paul Platou and Jon Moss, set about the meager target with relish. Twenty runs were scored off the first two overs, but in the fourth, captain Platou was caught behind off the impressive Wayne Borowsky. Moss was stumped charging down the wicket to Weinstein's off-breaks. Justin Dery was leg before to the same bowler for a duck, and when brother Rob mis-hooked Borowsky to mid-on, the Aussies were in deep trouble at 42 for 4.

The extremely promising Australian Under-19 star, Michael Klingner - who, at just 15, was the youngest Australian to have made a century in first grade cricket - and Mark Fuzes helped steady the ship. But when Klingner pulled a long long-hop down the throat of deep square leg, with the score on just 64, the Aussies were once again on the back foot.

The turning-point of the entire game occurred just a few over later, when Fuzes was dropped off a simple change to forward square leg. He and Sam Frey showed the previous batsmen, of both sides, where they had gone wrong, running numerous quick singles and rattling the South African fielders. Upping the tempo, Fuzes dispatched Weinstein for six to take the score to 112, but was out to the very next ball attempting to repeat the shot. His 34 runs, the highest score of the innings, had been priceless.

It was, however, too little too late for the Springboks. The Australians took another 13 overs to crawl to their target, losing another two wickets in the process - including Frey for 33 - but their victory was well-deserved.

The South Africans didn't exactly cover themselves in glory. In one incident, the match referee was called onto the field to investigate allegations that Lazard had sworn at one of the neutral umpires, branding him a "cheat." There were complaints of persistent sledging, and the Springboks were certainly very liberal with their appealing.

Justin Frey was voted man-of-the-match, and Chad Grainger man-of-the-series.

Aussie captain Platou thought the victory was down to playing as a team and "not getting on each other's backs." The South Africans never looked like they were enjoying themselves.

Greg Einfeld, the Australian manager: "A week ago, we were decimated by the bridge accident. Half the team was injured for the first few games. For the players to overcome the hardship has been a brilliant effort."

In the bronze medal game yesterday, Israel beat Britain by 26 runs at Hadar Yosef. The last time Israel won a medal (also bronze) was in 1981. Man-of-the-match Benzie Kahimkar and captain Stanley Perlman were involved in the vital partnership which turned the game for Israel.

Israel 159, Great Britain 133.

## Signs of solidarity

Mexico women beat the Australians in tennis bowling on Monday to take the gold in the trips.

At the medals ceremony, the Mexicans gave their gold medals to the Australians as a sign of solidarity for the tragedy suffered by the Australian delegation when two members of the tennis bowling team - Yetty Bennett and Gregory Small - died in the bridge collapse.

## USA rowers grab six golds

THE USA rowing team took gold medals in six of seven rowing events at Lake Kinneret.

The gold went to the women's single sculls (1X: Jessica Hymowitz), men's four with cox (4-: Aaron Berger, Rob Milam, Brian Epstein and Dan Richman), men's quad sculls (4X: Quentin Koffey, Sonam Henderson, Adam Strunk, David Rouda), men's four without cox (4-: Berger, Milam, Epstein, Richman), men's pair without cox (2-: Berger, Milam); the USA B team of Epstein and Richman also won the silver, men's single sculls (1X: Rouda). The men's double sculls (2X: Koffey, Henderson) took the bronze.

# Closing ceremony of 15th Maccabiah at Latrun tonight

By HEATHER CHAIT

Tonight's closing ceremony of the 15th Maccabiah will begin with a parade of the delegations through the streets of Jerusalem this afternoon.

The parade, which was canceled at the opening ceremony after the bridge tragedy, will set out at 16:30 from Safra Square and proceed along Jaffa Road, King George and Bezalel until the delegations gather at Gan Sacher, at about 18:00.

The above roads will be closed to traffic during the afternoon.

The thousands of sportsmen from 53 countries will

march with flag bearers and delegations of the Noar Hahalutz, Maccabi Tsair from abroad and the Jewish National Fund, together with youth bands and dancing groups from Jerusalem and Ramat Gan.

The evening ceremony will begin at 20:30 at Latrun in the presence of Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert.

The celebrations will include a sound and light show, singing and a review of 100 years of Zionism.

Towards the end of the ceremony, free-flying parachutists will enter the auditorium while fireworks will round off the 15th Maccabiah.

## Erez wins tennis gold Betar fail in Macedonia

By DANIEL J. CHALFEN

Dani Erez (Israel) beat Scott Lebovitz (USA) 6-4, 4-6, 6-1 to win the gold medal at the tennis tournament in Ramat Hasharon yesterday.

Play was equal in the first two sets, with long, backcourt rallies dominating. In the third, however, Lebovitz lost concentration and became increasingly agitated at what he deemed to be bad calls. Simultaneously, 20-year-old Erez, who is currently serving in the IDF and has a very limited amount of time to devote to his tennis, stepped up a gear, playing a strong and consistent game.

The victory came as a surprise to Erez, who after the match said he had "played well and had seized good opportunities."

After his military service, he intends to go to the USA, where he will work on his tennis more seriously.

First and third seeds, Tomer Dank (Israel) and Doub Bloom (USA) respectively, took bronze medals.

In the women's, Sheri Burstein (Israel) beat 16-year-old Jacquelin Rosen (USA) 7-6, 6-0 to win the gold. The first set was the most gripping of the tournament. Burstein went 2-4 down before coming back to 5-4 and then going on to win the tie break 16-14, in a set in which 15 set points were viciously contested.

"Mentality rather than tennis skill won that set," said Burstein, who added that "the first set was tough and tired out [Rosen] both physically and mentally."

Rosen is, however, a player to watch out for on the international tennis scene. With a WTA rating currently around 400, she says "by 18, I hope to play at Wimbledon."

The bronze medals went to Yael Stuart (Canada) and Alison Cohen (USA).

## Hapoel Petah Tikva win in injury time

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

Betar Jerusalem's European Championship campaign opened on the wrong foot yesterday with a 1-0 away defeat in the first leg of their preliminary round meeting with Macedonia's double cup and league winners, Sileks Kratovo.

The Israelis, who had hoped to lay the foundation for a relatively easy return leg in Jerusalem next Wednesday, went down to a 55th-minute penalty converted by Sileks' Rada Karapliovski.

The Macedonians threatened to extend their lead after they were awarded another penalty, but Itzik Kornfein provided the necessary heroics in goal to thwart the home side.

Betar's spirits were raised when Sileks were reduced to 10 men in the second half after the French referee reached for his red card. Unfortunately, the Jerusalemites were unable to make use of their numerical supremacy to seize an away goal, which would have improved their chances of proceeding into the next round of the competition where Portugal's Sporting Lisbon lie in wait.

Hapoel Petah Tikva 1, Flora-Tallinn 0.

Hapoel-Petah Tikva could not have teased their fans any longer than they did before scoring a deserved 1-0 win over Flora Tallinn in their UEFA Cup first qualifying round, first-leg match in Rishon LeZion yesterday.

The Petah Tikvans dominated the entire match against weak opposition and had several chances to score, but it took an injury-time strike from Hungarian central defender Gabor Marton to give Petah Tikva the all-important win ahead of next week's return leg in the Estonian capital.

Petah Tikva dominated the match from the outset, although the typical problem - finishing power in the area - which haunts so many Israeli teams was again abundantly evident. Moti Kakkon had several chances in the first half and later in the second, but he often failed to release the ball in time, preferring to try the solo route instead. Most notable was the 65th-minute miss in which Kakkon, last season's top league scorer, failed to convert a golden opportunity in front of the Tallinn goal.

Marton had a dress rehearsal for his goal when, in the 72nd minute, he struck a free kick which brushed the crossbar. After all 2,000 spectators had despaired that Hapoel were about to miss a golden opportunity to take an advantage with them to the return leg, he stepped Marton again and in an injury-time free kick from 18 meters, curled the ball high into the Estonians' net, leaving their goalkeeper Wayne Tamos - no chance.

Seconds before the final whistle, four minutes into injury time, the Estonians had an excellent opportunity to equalize but Petah Tikva keeper Shai Hess parried Sergei Terahov's shot by diving valiantly to his left.

## Stephens wins 17th Tour stage

COLMAR (AP) - Jan Ullrich stayed in the overall lead and Neil Stephens of Australia captured the 17th stage.

The overall standings were barely changed with four days to go. The riders had to go through a few showers before ending up in sunshine.

The Tour passed within 30 kilometers (18.6 miles) of Merdingen, Germany, where Ullrich has lived with his family for the past two years.

He had a lot of Germans on the roads and a lot of friends. "I was overjoyed to have the yellow jersey with my family coming so welcome me in Colmar," Ullrich said. "I was sure I was still in Germany."

## Maccabiah Results

- Basketball - men gold Canada 76, Britain 60
- Basketball - women gold - Israel 66, Canada 42
- Masters Basketball USA 70, Canada 44
- Fencing women fleuret gold 1. Israel 2. USA, men foil gold 1. Israel 2. USA 3. Germany, men epee gold 1. Israel 2. Canada 3. USA, women epee gold Natalia Grouzinskaja, Ukraine.
- Field Hockey - men bronze: Australia 4, Israel 3.
- Field Hockey - women bronze: USA 2, S. Africa 1.
- Handball men Round Robin Israel 2, Brazil 1
- Mini Soccer Britain 3, France 1.
- Rugby gold - USA 23, South Africa 22; bronze - Britain 22, Israel 8.
- Soccer Sweden 11, Argentina 10 (after penalty shootout; 0-0 after regular time)
- Swimming - women; 400m freestyle gold - Sarah Jacobs, USA 4:26.24; 100m backstroke Lital Kashriel, Israel 1:07.51; 100m butterfly Eran Garumli, Israel 55.86. 50m freestyle Yovav Bruck, Israel 23.46; 200m individual medley Mickey Halika, Israel 2:07.26
- Tempin Bowling - men (after 16 games) Guy Caminsky, South Africa 3678.
- Tempin Bowling - women (after 16 games) Michele Simon, South Africa 3263.
- Tennis - men gold - Dani Erez, Israel beat Scott Lebovitz, USA 6-4, 4-6, 6-1; women gold - Shiri Burstein, Israel beat Jacqueline Rosen, USA, 7-6, 6-0.
- Wheelchair Tennis - men Pinchas Levi, Israel beat Moni Oved 6-1, 6-1

## Ashes: Pitch swap causes controversy

LEEDS (AP) - England's cricket bosses have ruled out any sinister motives behind their decision to swap pitches for today's crucial fourth Test against Australia at Headingley.

Chairman of selectors David Graveney and England and Wales Cricket Board's pitch consultant Harry Brind ordered groundsman Andy Fogarty to swap the Test pitch to an adjoining one, sparking an Ashes row.

"He (Brind) felt the alternative wicket would provide a better wicket for the Test match - the guidelines state that matches should be played on a dry, even-covered grass wicket," Graveney explained.

"I was asked as chairman of selectors to approve that change. There was no question of anybody ordering anybody to change the wicket and it's not been done for any sinister or strange motives."

The two men visited Leeds and found the proposed Test strip with bare patches and widening cracks, and felt it would be a minefield to bat on against the leg spin wizardry of Shane Warne.

In fact, it was the same wicket the first one-day international was played on 64 days ago.

"In Harry's opinion, in close liaison with the ground authorities and the groundsman, the grass had not grown back on the one-day wicket sufficiently to his liking," Graveney said.

The ECB has virtually taken control of pitches at most Test venues after sub-standard pitches in recent years produced short Tests.

According to the chief executive of the International Cricket Council (ICC) David Richards, the captains and the ICC's cricket committee were concerned about a general decline throughout the world in the standard of Test wickets.

National League					American League				
East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB	East Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Atlanta	64	37	.634		Baltimore	59	37	.615	
Florida	56	41	.577	6	New York	57	41	.582	3
New York	56	42	.571	6 1/2	Toronto	46	49	.484	12 1/2
Montreal	52	45	.538	10	Detroit	46	52	.469	14
Philadelphia	29	67	.302	32 1/2	Boston	48	53	.465	14 1/2
Central Division					West Division				
Houston	51	48	.515		Cleveland	52	41	.559	
Pittsburgh	49	49	.500	1 1/2	Chicago	50	48	.510	4 1/2
St. Louis	48	50	.490	2 1/2	Milwaukee	45	50	.474	8
Cincinnati	42	55	.433	8	Minnesota	44	52	.458	9 1/2
Chicago	42	58	.420	8 1/2	Kansas City	38	65	.408	14
West Division					West Division				
San Francisco	55	44	.556		Seattle	55	44	.556	
Los Angeles	52	47	.526	3	Anaheim	54	44	.556	1 1/2
San Diego	47	52	.475	8	Texas	47	50	.485	7
Colorado	45	55	.450	10 1/2	Oakland	40	61	.398	16

Tuesday's NL results: Atlanta 4, Chicago 1 (1st); Chicago 5, Atlanta 4 (2nd); Colorado 11, Montreal 9; Cincinnati 7, Florida 6; Houston 3, St. Louis 2; Los Angeles 8, NY 3; San Diego 3, Pittsburgh 2; San Francisco 8, Philadelphia 5.

Tuesday's AL results: Cleveland 6, Seattle 2; Detroit 6, Chicago 3; Boston 4, Oakland 3; Toronto 5, Milwaukee 2; NY 9, Anaheim 2; Minnesota 3, Kansas City 2; Baltimore 9, Texas 3.

## CLASSIFIEDS

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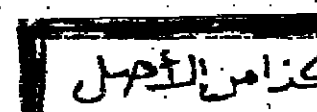
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**THEATER**

**CLASSICS**

**FERDINAND**

19th...

20th...

21st...

22nd...

23rd...

24th...

25th...

26th...

27th...

28th...

29th...

30th...

31st...



mony abiah night

Betar fail in Macedonia Hapoel Petah Tikva win in injury time

By DEREK FATTAL and OR LIND

Example: The Jerusalem Post... The Jerusalem Post... The Jerusalem Post...

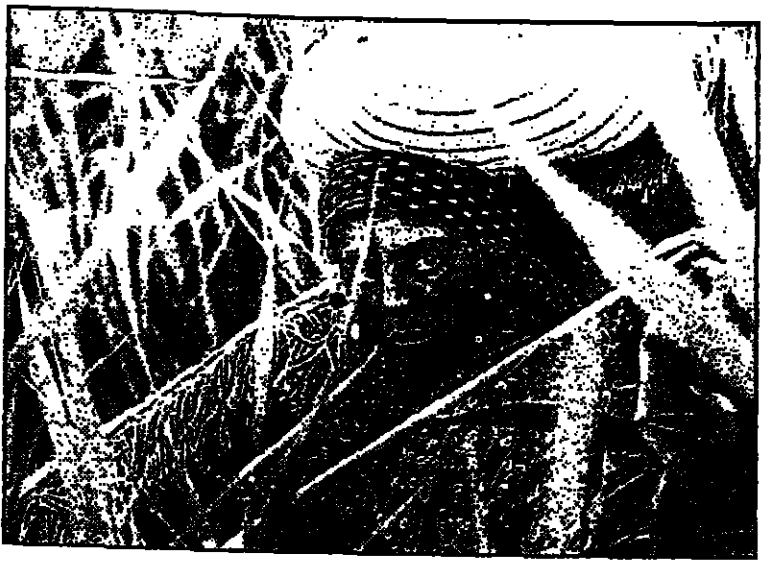
WHAT'S ON

CRITICS' CHOICE

THEATER

HELEN KAYE

It's safe to say that the ethical and moral questions posed by the exploding technologies and science of genetic engineering will be the hot topics of the next few decades. US playwright Jonathan Tolins wrote 'The Twilight of the Golds' in 1993, about 18 months before the publication of a study which shows that homosexuality might be a genetic trait. This study lies at the heart of the drama in which the Gold family must confront the knowledge that the fetus that Suzanne (Sarit Vinograd) is carrying has a homosexual gene. Her brother David (Gil Frank) is a homosexual, a fact the family has accepted but basically abhors. The Beersheba Theater production, directed by Gad Inbar, also stars Alex Peleg as Gold senior and Miriam Gabrieli as his wife, Phyllis. Opens Saturday at 9 p.m. (Hebrew).



'Gabbeh' is the first Iranian film to be screened locally.

Zubin Mehta is magical on the podium, and among the many first-class soloists is ravishing soprano Angela Maria Blazi as a most touching and sincere Liu. Tonight and Sunday (8:30) and Saturday (9) at the Mann Auditorium in Tel Aviv.

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

\*\*\* GABBEH - The first Iranian film to be screened locally since the Shah's overthrow, this wonderful movie by director Mohsen Makhmalbaf has the fanciful outline of a folk tale and the bright palette of the tribal carpet from which its characters leap full grown. Indeed, color is more than a pretty device here. It is the very subject of the movie, which manages - like the nomads' rugs, traditionally woven by the women to tell a story of love, death, birth or adventure - to contain within its small frame a whole rainbow of emotions, as well as an unadorned, yet startling view of the mountainous landscapes of Southeastern Iran. Lush, funny, and peculiarly haunting, Gabbeh is a thoroughly unique work: at once abstract and sensual. (Farsi dialogue, English and Hebrew subtitles. Not recommended for children.)

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

The Kfar Blum chamber-music festival opens today (8:30) with a special fun concert at Katzarin in the Golan Heights, in which percussionist Chen Zimbalista performs a wide selection of works while the audience can enjoy the local wines. The festival proper opens on Saturday in Kfar Blum (9 p.m.) with two world premieres, 'Songs of Loss' by Oded Zehavi and 'Vocalise on Ancient Laments' by Gil Shohat. The program also includes works by Telemann, Mendelssohn, and Schumann.

Will love conquer all or will Turandot send yet another prince to the gallows? To find out, check the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra's splendid presentation of Puccini's 'Turandot' in concert form.

TV

CHANNEL 1

6:30 News flash
6:31 News in Arabic
6:45 Good Morning Israel
...
11:35 Hot Science
12:10 A.J., Time Traveler
13:00 Cartoons (pt)
15:15 Gogo's Adventures with English

CHANNEL 2

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky - cartoon
7:00 Breakfast
7:00 News
7:00 Meetings
10:30 Pablo
10:30 The Jungle Book
11:30 Monster League
11:30 Fudge
12:00 Tush Tush
13:00 Platius - comedy skits
13:00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
14:00 Degraasi Junior
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Best Israel Video Clip
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 News
17:00 Magazine with Rafi Fleisher
17:30 Open Cards - Outside the Studio
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Hudson Street

CHANNEL 3

6:15 World of Art
6:30 Panorama
18:00 Sea of Thoughts
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 News
20:00 Teleshock
21:15 The Domino Principle (1977) - thriller about an imprisoned murderer who is offered a ticket to Costa Rica in exchange for assassination of a political figure. Starring Gene Hackman
22:00 Urban Angel
23:45 International Culture Magazine

CHANNEL 4

6:30 World of Art
6:30 Panorama
18:00 Sea of Thoughts
19:00 News in Arabic
19:30 Doctors Talk
20:00 News
20:00 Teleshock
21:15 The Domino Principle (1977) - thriller about an imprisoned murderer who is offered a ticket to Costa Rica in exchange for assassination of a political figure. Starring Gene Hackman
22:00 Urban Angel
23:45 International Culture Magazine

CHANNEL 5

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky - cartoon
7:00 Breakfast
7:00 News
7:00 Meetings
10:30 Pablo
10:30 The Jungle Book
11:30 Monster League
11:30 Fudge
12:00 Tush Tush
13:00 Platius - comedy skits
13:00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
14:00 Degraasi Junior
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Best Israel Video Clip
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 News
17:00 Magazine with Rafi Fleisher
17:30 Open Cards - Outside the Studio
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Hudson Street

CHANNEL 6

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky - cartoon
7:00 Breakfast
7:00 News
7:00 Meetings
10:30 Pablo
10:30 The Jungle Book
11:30 Monster League
11:30 Fudge
12:00 Tush Tush
13:00 Platius - comedy skits
13:00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
14:00 Degraasi Junior
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Best Israel Video Clip
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 News
17:00 Magazine with Rafi Fleisher
17:30 Open Cards - Outside the Studio
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Hudson Street

CHANNEL 7

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky - cartoon
7:00 Breakfast
7:00 News
7:00 Meetings
10:30 Pablo
10:30 The Jungle Book
11:30 Monster League
11:30 Fudge
12:00 Tush Tush
13:00 Platius - comedy skits
13:00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
14:00 Degraasi Junior
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Best Israel Video Clip
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 News
17:00 Magazine with Rafi Fleisher
17:30 Open Cards - Outside the Studio
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Hudson Street

CHANNEL 8

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky - cartoon
7:00 Breakfast
7:00 News
7:00 Meetings
10:30 Pablo
10:30 The Jungle Book
11:30 Monster League
11:30 Fudge
12:00 Tush Tush
13:00 Platius - comedy skits
13:00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
14:00 Degraasi Junior
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Best Israel Video Clip
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 News
17:00 Magazine with Rafi Fleisher
17:30 Open Cards - Outside the Studio
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Hudson Street

CHANNEL 9

6:15 Today's Programs
6:30 Tricky - cartoon
7:00 Breakfast
7:00 News
7:00 Meetings
10:30 Pablo
10:30 The Jungle Book
11:30 Monster League
11:30 Fudge
12:00 Tush Tush
13:00 Platius - comedy skits
13:00 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air
14:00 Degraasi Junior
14:30 Tic Tac
15:00 The Best Israel Video Clip
16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful
16:50 Different Driving
17:00 News
17:00 Magazine with Rafi Fleisher
17:30 Open Cards - Outside the Studio
18:00 Almost Perfect
18:30 Hudson Street

PRIME TIME TV

Table with columns for time slots (18:30, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00) and program titles like 'News flash Whoop!', 'Sunset Beach', 'Maccabiah highlights 15th Maccabiah Closing Ceremony', etc.

Table with columns for time slots (20:15, 22:00, 22:30, 23:00) and program titles like 'Married with Children', 'Roseanne', 'Deans', etc.

Table with columns for time slots (8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00) and program titles like '8:00 Ocean Wids', '9:00 Myster', '10:00 Star Plus', etc.

Table with columns for time slots (7:00, 8:00, 9:00, 10:00, 11:00, 12:00, 13:00, 14:00, 15:00, 16:00, 17:00, 18:00, 19:00, 20:00, 21:00, 22:00, 23:00) and program titles like '7:00 Golf: This Is PGA Tour', '8:00 Newsweek', '9:00 Hard Talk', etc.



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Father's Day, perhaps? (3,8)
9 Musical live-wire (9)
10 Hastily make and hoist a flag (3,2)
11 A ragged child may be an old city feature (6)
12 Such a player is presumably not equipped for the top (8)
13 Dulcic becomes a geometrician (6)
15 Ruins runaway affairs on ship (8)
18 Switches on for one daily period (8)
19 He could get his work done by Friday (6)
21 Bun available in Gibraltar? (4,4)
23 Crowd dispersed in North Galeshead (6)
26 Works and plays to music (5)
27 Sorry underwear (9)
28 They embrace the cloth before grace (6,5)

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solutions. Includes 'SOLUTIONS' section with answers like 'POLKAT', 'SQUAD', 'CABBAGE', etc.

QUICK CROSSWORD section with clues and answers. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' categories with answers like '1 Roman poet (6)', '1 Light cavalryman (6)', etc.

MOVIES

JERUSALEM
G.G. Gil Jerusalem Mall (Maha) # 678948 The Lost World 11:30 a.m., 1:30, 4:45, 7:15, 10:30
...
Con Air 4:30, 7:15, 9:45 RAV-MOR 4-7 # 841886 Romy and Michele 7:15, 9:30, 11:30
...
JUNGLE 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45, 12:15, 2:45, 5:15, 7:45, 10:15, 12:45



